



# SANDESH

April - June 2016



# SANDESH

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Suggestions regarding improvement of the "SANDESH" may please be addressed to

## Information Wing

High Commission of India  
No. 36 -38, Galle Road, Colombo 03,  
Sri Lanka

Tel: +94-11 2327587, +94-11 2422788-9

Fax: +94-11-2446403, +94-11 2448166

E-mail: [cpiccolombo@gmail.com](mailto:cpiccolombo@gmail.com)



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International Day of Yoga  
Sri Lanka - June 21, 2016



सत्यमेव जयते

## High Commission of India

No. 36 -38, Galle Road, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka

Tel: +94-11 2327587, +94-11 2422788-9

Fax: +94-11-2446403, +94-11 2448166

E-mail: [cpiccolombo@gmail.com](mailto:cpiccolombo@gmail.com)

website: [www.hcicolombo.org](http://www.hcicolombo.org)

facebook: [www.facebook.com/hcicolombo](http://www.facebook.com/hcicolombo)

## Assistant High Commission of India

No. 31, Rajapihilla Mawatha, PO Box 47, Kandy,  
Sri Lanka

Tel: +94 81 2222652

Fax: +94 81 2232479

E-mail: [ahc.kandy@mea.gov.in](mailto:ahc.kandy@mea.gov.in)

## Consulate General of India

No. 103, New Road, Hambantota, Sri Lanka

Tel: +94-47 2222500, +94-47 2222503

Fax: +94-47 2222501

E-mail: [cg.hambantota@mea.gov.in](mailto:cg.hambantota@mea.gov.in)

## Consulate General of India

No. 14, Maruthady Lane, Jaffna, Sri Lanka

Tel: +94-21 2220502, +94-21 2220504,

+94-21 2220505

Fax: +94-21 2220503

E-mail: [cg.jaffna@mea.gov.in](mailto:cg.jaffna@mea.gov.in)

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[www.facebook.com/indianculturalcentre](http://www.facebook.com/indianculturalcentre)

# Contents

## Visits

Visit of the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, to Papua New Guinea 1



Visit of the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, to New Zealand 4



Working visit of President of Sri Lanka to India 6



Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Iran 7



Visit of the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, to China 8



Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Afghanistan 9



Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Qatar 11



Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Switzerland 13



Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to USA 14



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi's address to the Joint Session of U.S. Congress 20

Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Mexico 25



Visit of the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, to Ghana 27

Visit of Prime Minister of Thailand to India 28



Visit of the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, to Namibia 29

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, at (SCO) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit 30



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi meets Chinese President Xi Jinping on sidelines of SCO 30

## International Day of Yoga



International Day of Yoga 2016 31

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, celebrates International Yoga Day in Chandigarh – participates in mass Yoga demonstrations, addresses and mingles with people at Capitol Complex 33

Celebration of International Day of Yoga 2016, Worldwide 34

# Contents. 2

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi's Message on Second International Day of Yoga 35

H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka and Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, inaugurated the Duraipah Stadium in Jaffna through video conferencing 36



Sri Lanka celebrates International Yoga Day with gusto 38



## Bilateral Beat

India and Sri Lanka signs MoU to gift 150 boats and fishing equipment to fishermen of Mullaithivu 39



India and Sri Lanka exchange letters to implement Indian Housing Project in Central and Uva Provinces 40

Indian Navy's Training Squadron in Colombo 42



Foundation stone laid for the Indian Housing Project in Central and Uva Provinces 43

India participates in Buddha Rashmi Vesak celebrations in Colombo 44



India lends a helping hand to Sri Lanka 45

Visit to Sri Lanka of inductees into the Indian Administrative Services 46



India and Sri Lanka sign MoU for a Women Empowerment Project in Ampara 47

India signs agreements with Implementing Agencies for Indian Housing Project in Central and Uva Provinces 48

Opening Remarks by High Commissioner at the Panel Discussion "India - Sri Lanka Relations in the 21st Century" organised by the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies on 16 June, 2016 49

High Commissioner participates at the Aloka Pooja in Mihintale on Poson Poya Day 50



Unleashing India's Entrepreneurial Energy 52



Prosperous Farmers for a Prosperous India 56

Building Infrastructure for a Modern & Futuristic India 58



## Technology

World's Space Agencies Unite To Face The Climate Challenge 60

India's Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstrator (RLV-TD), Successfully Flight Tested 61



## Economy

E-commerce to reach \$60-bn GMV by 2020 63

India's growth to rise to 8 percent in FY2019: Fitch 64



## Culture

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo EVENTS & PROGRAMMES 65



Celebration of International Day of Yoga 2016 66



## Visit of the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, to Papua New Guinea

April 28-29, 2016

The Hon'ble President of the Republic of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, paid a two day State Visit to Papua New Guinea from April 28- 29, 2016, at the invitation of the Grand Chief, H.E. Sir Michael Ogio, GCL GCMG, KStJ., Governor General of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

H.E. the Governor General received President Shri Pranab Mukherjee at Government House. Discussions

between the two leaders were marked by warmth and a shared desire to enhance the ties of friendship and cooperation that define the relationship between the two countries and their peoples.

During the talks, Minister for Sports, National Events and APEC, Hon'ble Justin Tkatchenko, Governor of West New Britain Province Hon'ble Sasindran Muthuvel, Acting Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr. William Dihm, Papua New Guinea's High Commissioner to Republic of India H. E. Mr. Tarcisius Eri were present.



### BILATERAL RELATIONS

The Governor General, Sir Michael Ogio and Hon'ble President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, exchanged views on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. Both leaders underlined the close and friendly bilateral ties, which are deep rooted in history and which hold great promise for the future. The wide ranging and constructive discussions were held in a most cordial atmosphere.

The Governor General, Grand Chief Sir Michael Ogio, reiterated his Government's support for India's candidature for Permanent Membership of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), especially in light of the constructive role played by India in different multilateral fora and in recognition of India's continuous support for the issues that are central to the concerns of Small Island Developing States.

Both leaders expressed confidence that Papua New Guinea with its abundant natural resources and India with its managerial and technical expertise presented complementarities which could be built upon for the

mutual benefit of the two countries.

They recognized that there exists great synergy and potential for increased cooperation between the two countries. Papua New Guinea looks forward to greater investments and larger trade volumes with India. Both sides agreed to expedite the conclusion of a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA) to facilitate investments. Both leaders agreed to enhance bilateral relations in the economic, security, defence, education and health sectors.

Both leaders further agreed to establish a mechanism for regular consultations between the Foreign Ministries of both countries aimed at diversifying and

further strengthening bilateral cooperation in areas of shared interest.

In order to promote greater mutual understanding and to strengthen people-to-people contacts, and India has extended visa-on-arrival facility for the nationals of all Pacific Island Countries with effect from 2015. In a gesture of reciprocity, the Government of Papua New Guinea announced the facility of visa on arrival for Indian tourists travelling to Papua New Guinea. Both leaders also witnessed signing of the Memorandums of Understanding on Agriculture Research Cooperation between University of Technology, Lae, Papua New Guinea and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.



The two sides finalised and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for broad ranging cooperation in the Health sector.

An MOU for an Indian line of credit of US\$ 100 million for development of infrastructure in PNG was also signed during the visit.

Both leaders welcomed the signing of another MoU under which India will set up a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology in Papua New Guinea.

Hon'ble President of India announced that his Government would provide retro-viral drugs and equipment for the treatment of 20,000 HIV patients in Papua New Guinea for one year. In response to this gesture of goodwill, the Governor General thanked the President of India on behalf of the people of Papua New Guinea.

**FORUM FOR INDIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS COOPERATION (FIPIC)**

The leaders agreed that the Forum for India and Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) Summit has been highly successful in strengthening the interaction between India and the Pacific region. They welcomed the new initiatives and expressed satisfaction at the progress so far.

**MARITIME SECURITY**

Both sides discussed bilateral cooperation in the area of maritime security. Papua New Guinea welcomed India's offer of a coastal surveillance radar system and coast guard patrol vessels .

**DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

Both sides further agreed to promote bilateral collaboration in disaster management. In this regard,

both leaders noted the endorsement by the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warnings Systems (RIMES) Council in July 2015 of the establishment of the RIMES Sub-Regional Hub for monitoring earthquake/tsunami and extreme weather patterns and climatic conditions in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Region in Papua New Guinea with support from the Government of India.

**TERRORISM**

The two leaders unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and called upon all states to reject the use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy.

Both leaders agreed to cooperate in building an international consensus against support and financing of terrorist organisations. The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in multilateral fora in combating terrorism in all its manifestations and for the early adoption of India's proposal for a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the United Nations.

**HUMAN RESOURCES AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

Hon'ble President reiterated India's commitment to assist Papua New Guinea in capacity building and human resource development. India also offered to share its advanced techniques and technologies in



the agriculture sector. In this connection, the leaders welcomed the MoU between the Indian Council for Agricultural Research and the Papua New Guinea University of Technology, Lae.

**ENERGY SECURITY**

Keeping in view India's desire to achieve energy security, Papua New Guinea agreed to develop new avenues of cooperation with India in exploration and development of Papua New Guinea's vast oil and gas resources through joint ventures and Indian public and private sector investment in new and existing projects.

Papua New Guinea welcomed the Government of India's initiative to mobilise solar rich resource countries that lie between the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn through the International Solar Alliance, which was launched in Paris on the margins of COP21 last November. The Governor General of

Papua New Guinea reaffirmed Papua New Guinea's support and expressed its desire to be a founding member of the International Solar Alliance.

**CONCLUSION**

The leaders agreed that the visit of Hon'ble President to New Guinea helped in strengthening and deepening the bilateral relationship and opened new avenues and sectors of cooperation for the benefit of the peoples of both countries.

Hon'ble President expressed his sincere gratitude to H.E. Sir Michael Ogio for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality accorded to him and his delegation. He invited the Governor General and the Prime Minister to visit India at a mutually convenient date. The invitations were accepted.



## Visit of the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, to New Zealand

April 30-02 May 2016

Hon'ble President of the Republic of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, paid a three-day visit to New Zealand from April 30 - May 02, 2016. His Visit to New Zealand was a first ever visits by an Indian President.

India has much in common with New Zealand including similarity of political systems, strong commitment to democracy and human values, the fact that we are open and rapidly growing economies, English language and passion for cricket among others. New Zealand is home to a large community of Indian origin who are well integrated into New Zealand society and who are contributing immensely to their adopted home. New Zealand has prioritised its relations with India and seeks to make India a core trade, economic and political partner.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee had substantive meetings with Governor General, Jerry Mateparae, and Prime Minister, John Key. Both underlined the importance New Zealand placed on its relations with India and the commonality in world view that we share. They reiterated New Zealand's support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the expanded UN Security Council. We agreed on the need for urgent reform of the UN and other international organisations which do not reflect the world of today. Both parties recognised the immense potential for

taking their economic cooperation to a much higher level. Given New Zealand's strengths, Hon'ble President emphasised that New Zealand could be a partner in our programmes for skills development, Make in India, Digital India, Smart Cities etc. as well as in the fields of agriculture, food processing and in disaster management. Both parties discussed and appreciated their respective engagements with the Pacific Island countries – India in FIPIC and New Zealand through the Pacific Island Forum, in which they are a dialogue partner. Shri Pranab Mukherjee conveyed India's willingness to work towards an early conclusion of an FTA keeping in mind the need to find a satisfactory resolution of our mutual concerns.

The leadership of New Zealand emphasised that they consider India a vital part of the Asia Pacific and





would like to partner us in diverse fields. They were highly appreciative of India's Act East policy. Shri Pranab Mukherjee on his part lauded New Zealand's positive contribution as a current member of the UN Security Council.



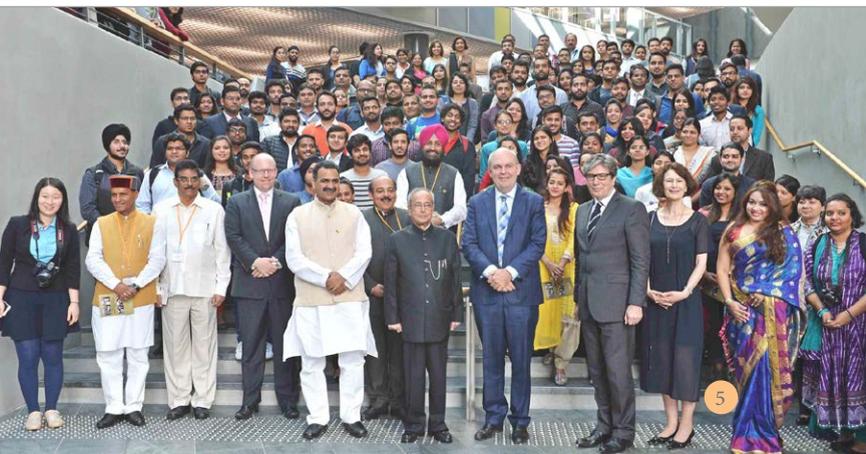
During his visit, an Air Services Agreement was signed. This is a long awaited development which will address to an extent connectivity issues between the two countries. An MoU on an ICCR Chair of Indian Studies in the University of Victoria was also signed. The New Zealand Government announced a new scholarship scheme for Indian students, who constitute the fastest growing group of international students in the country. Shri Pranab Mukherjee addressed students and faculty of the Auckland University of Technology and invited academicians from the universities of New Zealand to participate in the next Festival of Innovation which will be held in March 2017 at Rashtrapati Bhawan. Hon'ble President also addressed business leaders and the Indian community in New Zealand during the visit. Hon'ble President invited New Zealand businesses to participate in India's growth story and avail of the significant opportunities presented by Government of India's flagship initiatives.



Hon'ble President met former Governor General of New Zealand and a Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awardee, Sir Anand Satyanand, and three Members of the New Zealand Parliament who are persons of Indian origin. It is to the credit of the community as well as the host nation that they have been so well integrated and have contributed substantially to the progress and prosperity of New Zealand.



In conclusion, President's State Visit to New Zealand have provided new momentum to India's foreign policy towards the Asia-Pacific region. We must continue to proactively reach out to our friends such as Papua New Guinea and New Zealand as well as others in the region. These countries may be geographically distant but the warmth and friendship they display is tremendous. There exists great potential for mutual benefit if we can nurture and strengthen these bonds through high level political visits, determined follow up of agreements reached and consistent efforts to promote economic, trade, cultural and people to people links.





# Working visit of President of Sri Lanka to India

May 13-14, 2016

H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka, made a working visit to India on May 13-14. He addressed the valedictory session at the Vaicharick Mahakumbh which was held as part of the Simhastha Mahakumbh in Ujjain on the May. 14, 2016. He also visited the World famous Sanchi Stupa and attended a function by the Mahabodhi Society of Sri Lanka where he unveiled a statue of Anagarika Dharmapala. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India also hosted a dinner in honour of the President of Sri Lanka in New Delhi.



This visit by H. E. Sirisena further strengthened the close and cooperative relations between India and Sri Lanka.





# Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Iran

May 22-23, 2016

At the invitation of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Hassan Rouhani, Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, paid an official visit to Iran on May 22-23, 2016.

During the visit, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi called on the Supreme Leader of Iran and held talks on a wide range of subjects of mutual interest with President, Dr. Rouhani.

India and Iran share longstanding civilisational ties. Iran is situated in India's extended neighbourhood and the two countries have significant overlap in their economic and security space. The visit of Prime Minister,

Shri Narendra Modi to Iran sought to build on these commonalities by focussing on specific cooperation in regional connectivity and infrastructure, developing energy partnership, boosting bilateral trade, facilitating people-to-people interaction in various spheres and promoting peace and stability in the region.

The visit of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi provided a timely thrust to the ongoing efforts of the two countries and their business entities to expand bilateral cooperation and mutually benefit from new opportunities in the wake of lifting of secondary sanctions against Iran earlier this year.





## Visit of the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, to China

May 24-27, 2016

Hon'ble President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, paid a visit to China from May 24-27, 2016, at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart. He was the first Indian President to visit China. Hon'ble President arrived in the highly industrialised Chinese city Guangzhou on May 24. The city has strong business links with India.

He interacted with the Indian community, which has over 3,000 businessmen and also addressed India-China Business Forum to highlight the investment opportunities in India.

Top Chinese officials of the province were present at the event. A number of Indian and Chinese businessmen were also took part in the event. Later, Shri Mukherjee arrived in Beijing on May 25 and attended a reception hosted by The Chinese People's Friendship Association for Foreign Countries (CPAFFC).

On May 26, he addressed a meeting at the Peking University and later held talks with President Xi and also met Premier Li Keqiang

The visit set off a series of high-level visits between the two countries as they seek to deepen bilateral engagement.

The President's tour, which was a reciprocal visit to President Xi's trip to India in 2014, was followed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to the Chinese city of Hangzhou to take part in the G20 leaders summit to be held on September 4 and 5 this year. President Xi is expected to travel to India to take part in the Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) summit scheduled to be held in Goa from October 15-16.





# Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Afghanistan

June 4, 2016

Prime Minister of India, Shri Modi, paid a visit to Afghanistan on June 4, 2016 where he jointly inaugurated the Afghan-India Friendship Dam, earlier known as Salma Dam, with President of Afghanistan, Dr. Ashraf Ghani, in Herat province in Western Afghanistan.

The completion of the dam project represents culmination of years of hard work by about 1, 500 Indian and Afghan engineers and other professionals in very difficult conditions. It also highlights India's continued commitment to Afghanistan's reconstruction and development. As would be recalled, on December 25 2015, Prime Minister and President Ghani jointly dedicated to the Afghan nation the new Parliament Building constructed under

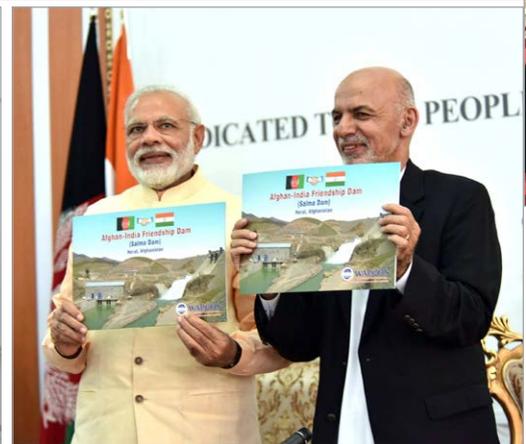


India-Afghanistan development cooperation.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi said: "This dam has not been built by bricks and mortar, but by the faith of our friendship and the valour of Afghans and Indians. And, at this moment of pride, we also stand in grief and gratitude for lives sacrificed so that Afghan people will have a future they so richly deserve and so deeply desire."

The meeting between the two leaders is the second in a span of weeks. In late-May, 2016, President Ghani had traveled to Iran for the signing of the trilateral India-Iran-Afghanistan agreement for the development of the Chabahar port. The meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President





Ghani was also provided an opportunity to discuss situation in Afghanistan and how the two countries can cooperate further for promoting peace and stability in that country.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, was awarded with Afghanistan's highest civilian honour, the Amir Amanullah Khan Award. Afghanistan President, Ashraf Ghani presented the award to the Indian leader during the inauguration of the landmark Afghan-India Friendship Dam in Herat, on the western tip of Afghanistan.

The award reflects Afghanistan's appreciation towards Government of India for building the Salma Dam, worth Rs. 1,700 crore. The dam is expected to irrigate

75,000 hectares of land and generate 42 MW of power.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi said: "This dam has not been built by bricks and mortar, but by the faith of our friendship and the valour of Afghans and Indians. And, at this moment of pride, we also stand in grief and gratitude for lives sacrificed so that Afghan people will have a future they so richly deserve and so deeply desire."

Moreover, on June 4, 2016, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi emphasized India's ongoing commitment to Afghanistan's development and thanked Afghanistan's military and police forces for protecting Indians in Afghanistan.





# Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Qatar

June 05, 2016

At the invitation of His Highness, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, paid a two-day Official visit to the State of Qatar from June 4-5, 2016.

His Highness the Emir received Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi at the Amiri Diwan and exchanged views on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of common interest. The wide-ranging discussions were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

During the visit, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi also met His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior of the State of Qatar.

During the official meetings, the two sides recalled the historical ties between India and Qatar and noted that the mutually beneficial and traditionally close interaction, which has existed between the peoples of the two countries over several generations, had stood the test of time.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi highlighted the major initiatives taken by the Government of India for 'Ease of Doing Business' through simplification and rationalization of existing rules and relaxing of foreign direct investment caps in key areas, including interalia, railways, defence and insurance. Informing about the plans to create world class infrastructure in India through 100 smart cities; metro projects for 50 cities; modern waste management system for 500 cities; affordable healthcare within everyone's reach; sanitation for all by 2019; and a roof over every head by 2022, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi invited

Qatar to be a partner in India's growth story.

Expressing his appreciation for Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's vision to further accelerate India's growth and development, His Highness the Emir expressed his confidence in India's growth narrative. Noting their strong potential to provide Indian economy a positive thrust for growth, His Highness the Emir lauded the new initiatives of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi including, "Start Up India", "Make in India", "Smart City", and "Clean India" etc.

Recognizing the high growth rate and the existing potential of the Indian economy, the importance of



partnering in India's growth and acknowledging Qatar's significant investment capacity, the two sides discussed various avenues/instruments for Qatari investments in India, particularly in different asset classes and various infrastructure sectors as well as the disinvestments of Indian Public Sector Undertakings.

The two sides agreed to increase the level of participation in infrastructure projects in both countries. They further deliberated upon the importance of cooperation between Qatar Investment Authority and National Infrastructure and Investment Fund set up by the Government of India. The two leaders welcomed the signing of the framework agreement for participation of the Qatari institutional investors in the National Infrastructure and Investment Fund.

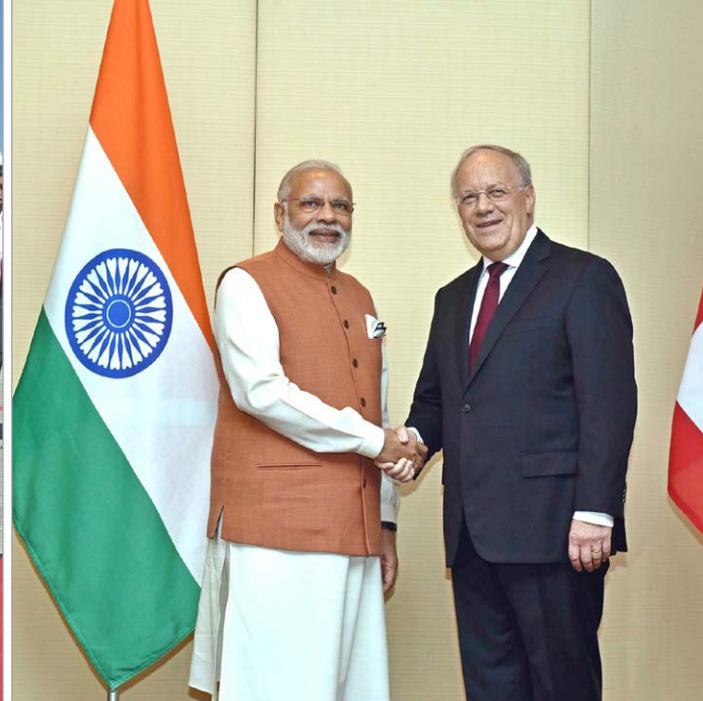
The two sides agreed for regular and timely exchange of information on available investment opportunities. Both sides also recognized the need for arranging regular meetings between Qatar Investment Authority and relevant Indian authorities and public and private sector companies.

The Indian side invited Qatar to invest in India's exploration & production sector by bidding for the exploration blocks in India under the new "Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing" Policy and "Discovered Small Fields" Policy.

The Indian side invited Qatar to participate in the second phase of the strategic reserves storage facility being created in India.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi expressed his sincere gratitude to His Highness the Emir for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality. He invited His Highness the Emir to pay an official visit to India at mutually convenient time, which was accepted.





# Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Switzerland

June 6, 2016

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi was in Switzerland, the third stop of his five country tour (the other four being Afghanistan, Qatar, the US, and Mexico), for a daylong tour on June 6, 2016. During his visit, the Prime Minister of India dwelt on a number of important issues including asking for the unflinching support on bringing back black money to the country, NSG membership, trade and economic engagement. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi held discussions with Swiss President

Schneider-Ammann. Other eminent personalities in the line-up of his meetings included business persons and scientists working at CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research).

## Talks regarding NSG membership

India's bid to become a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group was at the focus of the meeting. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi clinched an important victory with Swiss President Schneider-Ammann extending his support for India's attempt to become a member of this elite group.

## Discussions on black money and tax evasion

The leaders of the two countries also discussed ways to address evident perils like black money and tax evasion. Prime Minister Modi said that they discussed the need for prompt exchange of information in a bid to bring perpetrators of the said crimes to justice. He went on to emphasize the importance of early discussions on the automatic exchange agreement between the two countries. Schneider-Ammann from his end assured that both the countries have put their best foot forward as far as combating tax fraud is concerned.

## International institutions, free trade and other issues

The countries also demonstrated their commitment to strengthen international institutions in line with the present global trends.





# Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to USA

(The United States and India: Enduring Global Partners in the 21st Century)

June 07, 2016

The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and the President of the United States of America, Mr. Barack Obama met during an Official visit of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to the United States. Marking their third major bilateral summit, the leaders reviewed the deepening strategic partnership between the United States and India that is rooted in shared values of freedom, democracy, universal human rights, tolerance and pluralism, equal opportunities for all citizens, and rule of law. They pledged to pursue new opportunities to bolster economic growth and sustainable development, promote peace and security at home and around the world, strengthen inclusive, democratic governance and respect for universal human rights, and provide global leadership on issues of shared interest.

The leaders welcomed the significant progress made in bilateral relations between India and the United States during their tenure, in accordance with the roadmaps set out in the Joint Statements issued during Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's visit to the United States in September 2014 and President Obama's visit to India in January 2015. The leaders affirmed the increasing convergence in their strategic perspectives and emphasized the need to remain closely invested in each other's security and prosperity.

## **Advancing U.S.-India Global Leadership on Climate and Clean Energy**

The steps that the two Governments have taken in the last two years through the U.S.-India Contact Group, including by addressing the nuclear liability

issue, inter alia, through India's ratification of the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, have laid a strong foundation for a long-term partnership between U.S. and Indian companies for building nuclear power plants in India. Culminating a decade of partnership on civil nuclear issues, the leaders welcomed the start of preparatory work on site in India for six AP 1000 reactors to be built by Westinghouse and noted the intention of India and the U.S. Export-Import Bank to work together toward a competitive financing package for the project. Once completed, the project would be among the largest of its kind, fulfilling the promise of the U.S.-India civil nuclear agreement and demonstrating a shared commitment to meet India's growing energy needs while reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Both sides welcomed the announcement by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd, and Westinghouse that engineering and site design work will begin immediately and the two sides will work toward finalizing the contractual arrangements by June 2017.

The United States and India share common climate and clean energy interests and are close partners in the fight against climate change. Leadership from both countries helped galvanize global action to combat climate change and culminated in the historic Paris Agreement reached last December. Both countries are committed to working together and with others to promote full implementation of the Paris Agreement to address the urgent threats posed by climate change. India and the United States recognize the urgency of climate change and share the goal of enabling entry

into force of the Paris Agreement as early as possible. The United States reaffirms its commitment to join the Agreement as soon as possible this year. India similarly has begun its processes to work toward this shared objective. The leaders reiterated their commitment to pursue low greenhouse gas emission development strategies in the pre-2020 period and to develop long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies. In addition, the two countries resolved to work to adopt an HFC (hydrofluorocarbon) amendment in 2016 with increased financial support from donor countries to the Multilateral Fund to help developing countries with implementation, and an ambitious phase down schedule, under the Montreal Protocol pursuant to the Dubai Pathway. The leaders resolved to work together at the upcoming International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly to reach a successful outcome to address greenhouse gas emissions from international aviation. Further, the two countries will pursue under the leadership of the G20 strong outcomes to promote improved heavy-duty vehicle standards and efficiency in accordance with their national priorities and capabilities.

The leaders welcomed the signing of an MOU to Enhance Cooperation on Energy Security, Clean Energy and Climate Change, and an MOU on Cooperation in Gas Hydrates.

Reflecting Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's call to embrace wildlife conservation as a development imperative, the leaders welcomed the signing of an MOU to enhance cooperation on Wildlife Conservation and Combating Wildlife Trafficking.

### Clean Energy Finance

The United States supports the Government of India's ambitious national goals to install 175 GW of renewable power which includes 100 GW from solar power.

The United States welcomes the launch of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), recognizes the critical role it can play in the development and deployment of solar power, and intends pursuing membership in

the ISA. To this end, and to strengthen ISA together, the United States and India will jointly launch the third Initiative of the ISA which will focus on off-grid solar for energy access at the Founding Conference of ISA in September, 2016 in India. The United States also remains committed, with other developed countries, to the goal of jointly mobilizing \$100 billion per year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation and adaptation action.

The United States is committed to bring to bear its technical capacity, resources and private sector, and is jointly launching with India new efforts, to spur greater investment in India's renewable energy sector, including efforts that can serve as a model for other ISA Member Countries. In particular, the United States and India today are announcing: the creation of a \$20 million U.S. - India Clean Energy Finance (USICEF) initiative, equally supported by the United States and India, which is expected to mobilize up to \$400 million to provide clean and renewable electricity to up to 1 million households by 2020; a commitment to establish the U.S.-India Clean Energy Hub as the coordinating mechanism to focus United States Government efforts that, in partnership with leading Indian financial institutions, will increase renewable energy investment in India; a \$40 million U.S.-India Catalytic Solar Finance Program, equally supported by the United States and India, that, by providing needed liquidity to smaller-scale renewable energy investments, particularly in poorer, rural villages that are not connected to the grid, could mobilize up to \$1 billion of projects; the expansion of handholding support to Indian utilities that are scaling up rooftop solar and continuation of successful cooperation with USAID on "Greening the Grid".

The United States and India also remain committed to the goals of Mission Innovation, which they jointly launched during COP-21 in Paris to double their respective clean energy research and development (R&D) investment in five years. Toward this end, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate on research and development, including through the announcement of an upcoming \$30 million public-private research effort in smart grid and grid storage.

### Strengthening Global Nonproliferation

The President thanked the Prime Minister for his substantive contribution to and active participation in 2016 Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, D.C., and welcomed his offer to host a Summit on Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorism in 2018. The United States and India will work together to combat the threat of terrorists accessing and using chemical,





biological, nuclear and radiological materials.

Recalling their shared commitment to preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, the leaders looked forward to India's imminent entry into the Missile Technology Control Regime. President Obama welcomed India's application to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), and re-affirmed that India is ready for membership. The United States called on NSG Participating Governments to support India's application when it comes up at the NSG Plenary later this month. The United States also re-affirmed its support for India's early membership of the Australia Group and Wassenaar Arrangement.

**Securing the Domains: Land, Maritime, Air, Space, and Cyber**

The leaders applauded the completion of a roadmap for cooperation under the 2015 U.S.-India Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region, which will serve as a guide for collaboration in the years to come. They resolved that the United States and India should look to each other as priority partners in the Asia Pacific and the Indian Ocean region.

They welcomed the inaugural meeting of the Maritime Security Dialogue. Owing to mutual interest in maritime security and maritime domain awareness, the leaders welcomed the conclusion of a technical arrangement for sharing of maritime "White Shipping" information.

The leaders affirmed their support for U.S.-India cooperation in promoting maritime security. They reiterated the importance they attach to ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight and exploitation of resources as per international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and settlement of territorial disputes by peaceful means.

The leaders applauded the enhanced military to military cooperation between the two countries especially in joint exercises, training and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR). They expressed their desire to explore agreements which would facilitate further expansion of bilateral defense cooperation in practical ways. In this regard, they welcomed the finalization of the text of the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of

Agreement (LEMOA).

Noting that the U.S.-India defense relationship can be an anchor of stability, and given the increasingly strengthened cooperation in defense, the United States hereby recognizes India as a Major Defense Partner. As such:

The United States will continue to work toward facilitating technology sharing with India to a level commensurate with that of its closest allies and partners. The leaders reached an understanding under which India would receive license-free access to a wide range of dual-use technologies in conjunction with steps that India has committed to take to advance its export control objectives.

In support of India's Make In India initiative, and to support the development of robust defense industries and their integration into the global supply chain, the United States will continue to facilitate the export of goods and technologies, consistent with U.S. law, for projects, programs and joint ventures in support of official U.S.-India defense cooperation.

The leaders also committed to enhance cooperation in support of the Government of India's Make in India Initiative and expand the co-production and co-development of technologies under the Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI). They welcomed the establishment of new DTTI working groups to include agreed items covering Naval Systems, Air Systems, and other Weapons Systems. The leaders announced the finalization of the text of an Information Exchange Annex under the Joint Working Group on Aircraft Carrier Technology Cooperation.

President Obama thanked Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for his government's support for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) missions in India, including a recovery mission that resulted in the recent repatriation of remains of the United States Service Members missing since the Second World War. The leaders announced their commitment to future DPAA missions.

As space faring nations, India and the United States acknowledge that outer space should be an ever



expanding frontier of human endeavour, and look forward to deepening their cooperation on earth observation, Mars exploration, space education and manned space flight. The leaders welcomed the progress toward establishment of an ISRO-NASA Heliophysics Working Group as well as toward finalization of a Memorandum of Understanding for exchange of earth observation satellite data.

The leaders emphasized that cyberspace enables economic growth and development, and reaffirmed their commitment to an open, interoperable, secure, and reliable Internet, underpinned by the multistakeholder model of Internet governance. They committed to deepen cooperation on cybersecurity and welcomed the understanding reached to finalize the Framework for the U.S.-India Cyber Relationship in the near term. They committed to enhance cyber collaboration on critical infrastructure, cybercrime, and malicious cyber activity by state and non-state actors, capacity building, and cybersecurity research and development, and to continue discussions on all aspects of trade in technology and related services, including market access. They have committed to continue dialogue and engagement in Internet governance fora, including in ICANN, IGF and other venues, and to support active participation by all stakeholders of the two countries in these fora. The leaders committed to promote stability in cyberspace based on the applicability of international law including the United Nations Charter, the promotion of voluntary norms of responsible state behavior during peacetime, and the development and implementation of practical confidence building measures between states.

In this context, they affirmed their commitment to the voluntary norms that no country should conduct or knowingly support online activity that intentionally damages critical infrastructure or otherwise impairs the use of it to provide services to the public; that no country should conduct or knowingly support activity intended to prevent national computer security incident response teams from responding to cyber incidents, or use its own teams to enable online activity that is intended to do harm; that every country should cooperate, consistent with its domestic law and international obligations, with requests for assistance from other states in mitigating malicious cyber activity emanating from its territory; and that no country

should conduct or knowingly support ICT-enabled theft of intellectual property, including trade secrets or other confidential business information, with the intent of providing competitive advantages to its companies or commercial sectors.

### **Standing Together Against Terrorism and Violent Extremism**

The leaders acknowledged the continued threat posed to human civilization by terrorism and condemn the recent terrorist incidents from Paris to Pathankot, from Brussels to Kabul. They resolved to redouble their efforts, bilaterally and with other like-minded countries, to bring to justice the perpetrators of terrorism anywhere in the world and the infrastructure that supports them.

Building on the January 2015 U.S.-India Joint Statement commitment to make the U.S.-India partnership a defining counterterrorism relationship for the 21st Century, as well as the September 2015 U.S.-India Joint Declaration on Combatting Terrorism, the leaders announced further steps to deepen collaboration against the full spectrum of terrorist threats.

The leaders committed to strengthen cooperation against terrorist threats from extremist groups, such as Al-Qa'ida, Da'esh/ISIL, Jaish-e Mohammad, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, D Company and their affiliates, including through deepened collaboration on UN terrorist designations. In this context, they directed their officials to identify specific new areas of collaboration at the next meeting of U.S.-India Counterterrorism Joint Working Group.

Recognizing an important milestone in the U.S.-India counterterrorism partnership, the leaders applauded the finalization of an arrangement to facilitate the sharing of terrorist screening information. They also called for Pakistan to bring the perpetrators of the 2008 Mumbai and 2016 Pathankot terrorist attacks to justice.

The leaders affirmed their support for a UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism that advances and strengthens the framework for global cooperation and reinforces that no cause or grievance justifies terrorism.

## Bolstering Economic and Trade Ties

The leaders highlighted the strong and expanding economic relationship between the United States and India and committed to support sustainable, inclusive, and robust economic growth, and common efforts to stimulate consumer demand, job creation, skill development and innovation in their respective countries.

In order to substantially increase bilateral trade, they pledged to explore new opportunities to break down barriers to the movement of goods and services, and support deeper integration into global supply chains, thereby creating jobs and generating prosperity in both economies. They look forward to the second annual Strategic and Commercial Dialogue in India later this year to identify concrete steps in this regard. They also commended the increased engagement on trade and investment issues under the Trade Policy Forum (TPF) and encouraged substantive results for the next TPF later this year. They welcomed the engagement of U.S. private sector companies in India's Smart City program.

The leaders applauded the strong bonds of friendship between the 1.5 billion peoples of India and the United States that have provided a solid foundation for a flourishing bilateral partnership, noting that two-way travel for tourism, business, and education has seen unprecedented growth, including more than one million travelers from India to the United States in 2015, and similar number from the United States to India. The leaders resolved to facilitate greater movement of professionals, investors and business travelers, students, and exchange visitors between their countries to enhance people-to-people contact as well as their economic and technological partnership. To this end, they welcomed the signing of an MOU for Development of an International Expedited Traveler Initiative (also known as the Global Entry Program) and resolved to complete within the next three months the procedures for India's entry into the Global Entry Program.

The leaders recognized the fruitful exchanges in August 2015 and June 2016 on the elements required in both countries to pursue a U.S.-India Totalization Agreement and resolved to continue discussions later this year.

Recognizing the importance of fostering an enabling environment for innovation and empowering entrepreneurs, the United States welcomes India's hosting of the 2017 Global Entrepreneurship Summit.

The leaders welcomed the enhanced engagement on intellectual property rights under the High Level

Working Group on Intellectual Property and reaffirmed their commitment to use this dialogue to continue to make concrete progress on IPR issues by working to enhance bilateral cooperation among the drivers of innovation and creativity in both countries.

The United States welcomes India's interest in joining the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, as India is a dynamic part of the Asian economy.

## Expanding Cooperation: Science & Technology and Health

The leaders affirmed their nations' mutual support in exploring the most fundamental principles of science as embodied in the arrangement reached to cooperate on building a Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) in India in the near future and welcomed the formation of the India-U.S. Joint Oversight Group to facilitate agency coordination of funding and oversight of the project.

The leaders look forward to India's participation at the September 2016 Our Ocean Conference in Washington, D.C. as well as holding of the first India-U.S. Oceans Dialogue later this year, to strengthen cooperation in marine science, ocean energy, managing and protecting ocean biodiversity, marine pollution, and sustainable use of ocean resources.

The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the Global Health Security Agenda and the timely implementation of its objectives. The Prime Minister noted India's role on the Steering Group and its leadership in the areas of anti-microbial resistance and immunization. The President noted the United States' commitment to support, undergo, and share a Joint External Evaluation in collaboration with the World Health Organization.

The leaders recognized the global threat posed by multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) and committed to continue collaboration in the area of tuberculosis and to share respective best practices.

The leaders noted the growing threat of non-communicable diseases and the urgent need to address the risk factors by, inter alia, promoting healthy lifestyles, controlling sugar and salt intake, promoting physical activity especially among children



and youth and strengthening efforts to curb tobacco use. The leaders also reiterated the importance of holistic approaches to health and wellness, and of promoting the potential benefits of holistic approaches by synergizing modern and traditional systems of medicine, including Yoga.

The leaders strongly endorsed expansion of the Indo-U.S. Vaccine Action Program, which is fostering public-private research partnerships focused on the development and evaluation of vaccines to prevent tuberculosis, dengue, chikungunya and other globally important infectious diseases.

### Global Leadership

The leaders reaffirmed their resolve to continue working together as well as with the wider international community to augment the capacity of the United Nations to more effectively address the global development and security challenges. With the historic adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, and recognizing its universality, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to implement this ambitious agenda domestically and internationally and work in a collaborative partnership for the effective achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

The leaders reaffirmed their support for a reformed UN Security Council with India as a permanent member. Both sides committed to ensuring that the Security Council continues to play an effective role in maintaining international peace and security as envisioned in the UN Charter. The leaders are committed to continued engagement on Security Council reform in the UN Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on Security Council Reform.

The leaders welcomed the successful convening of the Leaders' Summit on UN Peacekeeping and committed to deepening engagement on UN peacekeeping capacity-building efforts in third countries, through co-organizing the first UN Peacekeeping Course for African Partners in New Delhi later this year for participants from ten countries in Africa. The leaders also reiterated their support for ongoing reform efforts to strengthen UN peacekeeping operations.

Building on their respective bilateral engagements with Africa, such as the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit and India-Africa Forum Summit, the leaders reflected that the United States and India share a common interest in working with partners in Africa to promote prosperity and security across the continent. The leaders welcomed trilateral cooperation with African partners, including in areas such as agriculture, health, energy, women's empowerment and sanitation under the Statement of Guiding Principles on Triangular Cooperation for Global Development. They looked forward to opportunities to deepen the U.S. - India global development cooperation in Africa, as well as in Asia and beyond.

### Building People-to-People Ties

Both sides committed to open additional consulates in each other's country. India will be opening a new consulate in Seattle and the United States will open a new consulate at a mutually agreed location in India.

The leaders announced that the United States and India will be Travel and Tourism Partner Countries for 2017, and committed to facilitate visas for each other's nationals.

Reflecting on the strong educational and cultural bonds between the two countries, the leaders welcomed the growing number of Indian students studying in the United States, which increased by 29 percent to nearly 133,000 students in 2014-2015, and looked forward to increased opportunities for American students to study in India. The leaders also appreciated their governments' joint efforts through the Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowship to develop a cohort of climate scientists to confront the shared challenge of global climate change.

Recognizing its mutual goal of strengthening greater people-to-people ties, the leaders intend to renew efforts to intensify dialogue to address issues affecting the citizens of both countries that arise due to differences in the approaches of legal systems, including issues relating to cross-country marriage, divorce and child custody.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi welcomed the United States' repatriation of antiquities to India. The leaders also committed to redouble their efforts to combat the theft and trafficking of cultural objects.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi thanked President Obama for his gracious invitation and warmth of hospitality. He extended an invitation for President Obama to visit India at his convenience.





# Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi's address to the Joint Session of U.S. Congress

June 08, 2016

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Distinguished Members of the U.S. Congress, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am deeply honoured by the invitation to address this Joint Meeting of the U.S. Congress.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker for opening the doors of this magnificent Capitol.

This temple of democracy has encouraged and empowered other democracies the world over.

It manifests the spirit of this great nation, which in Abraham Lincoln's words, "was conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

In granting me this opportunity, you have honoured the world's largest democracy and its 1.25 billion people.

As a representative of world's largest democracy, it is indeed a privilege to speak to the leaders of its oldest.

Mr. Speaker,

Two days ago, I began my visit by going to the Arlington National Cemetery -the final resting place of many brave soldiers of this great land.

I honoured their courage and sacrifice for the ideals of freedom and democracy.

It was also the seventy-second Anniversary of the D-Day.

On that day, thousands from this great country fought to protect the torch of liberty on the remote shores of a land that they did not know.

They sacrificed their lives so that the world lives in freedom.

I applaud ...India applauds, the great sacrifices of the men

and women from 'The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave' in service of mankind.

India knows what this means because our soldiers too have fallen in distant battlefields for the same ideals.

That is why the threads of freedom and liberty form a strong bond between our two democracies.

Mr. Speaker,

Our nations may have been shaped by differing histories, cultures, and faiths.

Yet, our belief in democracy for our nations and liberty for our countrymen is common.

The idea that all citizens are created equal is a central pillar of the American constitution.

Our founding fathers too shared the same belief and sought individual liberty for every citizen of India.

There were many who doubted India when, as a newly independent nation, we reposed our faith in democracy.

Indeed, wagers were made on our failure.

But, the people of India did not waver.

Our founders created a modern nation with freedom, democracy, and equality as the essence of its soul.

And, in doing so, they ensured that we continued to celebrate our age old diversity.

Today, across its streets and institutions, in its villages and cities, anchored in equal respect for all faiths; and in the melody of hundreds of its languages and dialects.

India lives as one; India grows as one; India celebrates as one.

Mr. Speaker,

Modern India is in its 70th year.

For my government, the Constitution is its real holy book.

And, in that holy book, freedom of faith, speech and franchise, and equality of all citizens, regardless of background, are enshrined as fundamental rights.

800 million of my countrymen may exercise the freedom of franchise once every five years.

But, all the 1.25 billion of our citizens have freedom from fear, a freedom they exercise every moment of their lives.

Distinguished Members,

Engagement between our democracies has been visible in the manner in which our thinkers impacted one another, and shaped the course of our societies.

Thoreau's idea of civil disobedience influenced our political thoughts.

And, similarly the call by the great sage of India Swami Vivekananda to embrace humanity was most famously delivered in Chicago.

Gandhi's non-violence inspired the heroism of Martin Luther King.

Today, a mere distance of 3 miles separates the Martin Luther King memorial at Tidal Basin from the statue of Gandhi at Massachusetts Avenue.

This proximity of their memorials in Washington mirrors the closeness of ideals and values they believed in.

The genius of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was nurtured in the years he spent at the Columbia University a century ago.

The impact of the U.S. constitution on him was reflected in his drafting of the Indian constitution some three decades later.

Our independence was ignited by the same idealism that fuelled your struggle for freedom.

No wonder then that former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee called India and the U.S. 'natural allies'.

No wonder that the shared ideals and common philosophy of freedom shaped the bedrock of our ties.

No wonder then, that President Obama has called our ties the defining partnership of the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker,

More than fifteen years ago, Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee stood here and gave a call to step out of the 'shadow of hesitation' of the past.

The pages of our friendship since then tell a remarkable story.

Today, our relationship has overcome the hesitations of history.

Comfort, candour and convergence define our conversations.

Through the cycle of elections and transitions of Administrations the intensity of our engagements has only grown.

And, in this exciting journey, the U.S. Congress has acted as its compass.

You helped us turn barriers into bridges of partnership.

In the fall of 2008, when the Congress passed the India-U.S. Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, it changed the very colours of leaves of our relationship.

We thank you for being there when the partnership needed you the most.

You have also stood by us in times of sorrow.

India will never forget the solidarity shown by the U.S. Congress when terrorists from across our border attacked Mumbai in November of 2008.

And for this, we are grateful.

Mr. Speaker,

I am informed that the working of the U.S. Congress is harmonious.

I am also told that you are well-known for your bipartisanship.

Well, you are not alone.

Time and again, I have also witnessed a similar spirit in the Indian Parliament, especially in our Upper House.

So, as you can see, we have many shared practices.

Mr. Speaker,

As this country knows well, every journey has its pioneers.

Very early on, they shaped a development partnership even when the meeting ground was more limited.

The genius of Norman Borlaug brought the Green Revolution and food security to India.

The excellence of the American Universities nurtured Institutes of Technology and Management in India.

And, I could go on.

Fast forward to today.

The embrace of our partnership extends to the entirety of human endeavour-from the depths of the oceans to the vastness of the space.

Our S&T collaboration continues to help us in cracking the age-old problems in the fields of public health, education, food, and agriculture.

Ties of commerce and investment are flourishing. We trade more with the U.S. than with any other nation.

And, the flow of goods, services and capital between us generates jobs in both our societies. As in trade, so in defence. India exercises with the United States more than we do with any other partner. Defence purchases have moved from almost zero to ten billion dollars in less than a decade.

Our cooperation also secures our cities and citizens

from terrorists, and protects our critical infrastructure from cyber threats.

Civil Nuclear Cooperation, as I told President Obama yesterday, is a reality.

Mr. Speaker,

Our people to people links are strong; and there is close cultural connect between our societies.

SIRI tells us that India's ancient heritage of Yoga has over 30 million practitioners in the U.S..

It is estimated that more Americans bend for yoga than to throw a curve ball.

And, no Mr. Speaker, we have not yet claimed intellectual property right on Yoga.

Connecting our two nations is also a unique and dynamic bridge of three million Indian Americans.

Today, they are among your best CEOs; academics; astronauts; scientists; economists; doctors; even spelling bee champions.

They are your strength. They are also the pride of India. They symbolize the best of both our societies.

Mr. Speaker,

My understanding of your great country began long before I entered public office.

Long before assuming office, I travelled coast to coast, covering more than 25 States of America.

I realized then that the real strength of the U.S. was in the dreams of its people and the boldness of their ambitions.

Today, Mr. Speaker, a similar spirit animates India.

Our 800 million youth, especially, are particularly

impatient.

India is undergoing a profound social and economic change.

A billion of its citizens are already politically empowered.

My dream is to economically empower them through many social and economic transformations.

And, do so by 2022, the seventy-fifth anniversary of India's independence.

My to-do list is long and ambitious. But you will understand.

It includes:

- A vibrant rural economy with robust farm sector;
- A roof over each head and electricity to all households;
- To skill millions of our youth;
- Build 100 smart cities;
- Have a broad band for a billion, and connect our villages to the digital world;
- And create a twenty-first century rail, road and port infrastructure.

These are not just aspirations; they are goals to be reached in a finite time-frame.

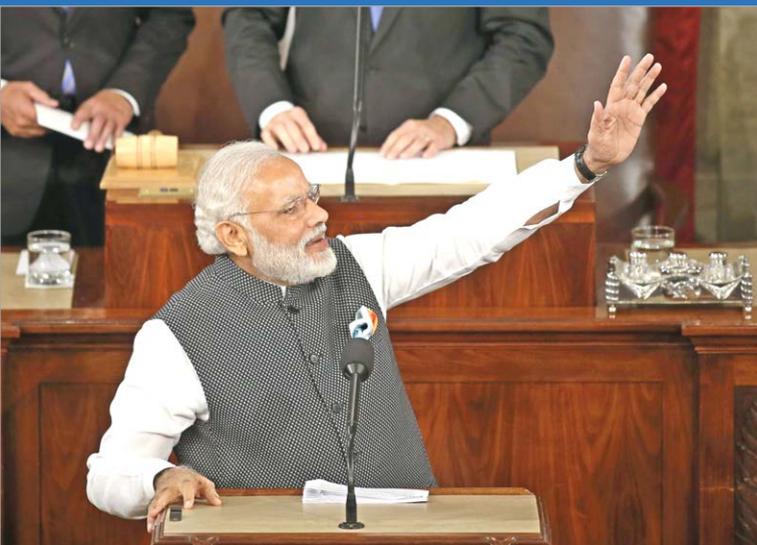
And, to be achieved with a light carbon foot print, with greater emphasis on renewables.

Mr. Speaker,

In every sector of India's forward march, I see the U.S. as an indispensable partner.

Many of you also believe that a stronger and prosperous India is in America's strategic interest.





Let us work together to convert shared ideals into practical cooperation.

There can be no doubt that in advancing this relationship, both nations stand to gain in great measure.

As the U.S. businesses search for new areas of economic growth, markets for their goods, a pool of skilled resources, and global locations to produce and manufacture, India could be their ideal partner.

India's strong economy, and growth rate of 7.6% per annum, is creating new opportunities for our mutual prosperity.

Transformative American technologies in India and growing investment by Indian companies in the United States both have a positive impact on the lives of our citizens.

Today, for their global research and development centres, India is the destination of choice for the U.S. companies.

Looking eastward from India, across the Pacific, the innovation strength of our two countries comes together in California.

Here, the innovative genius of America and India's intellectual creativity are working to shape new industries of the future.

Mr. Speaker,

The 21st century has brought with it great opportunities.

But, it also comes with its own set of challenges.

Inter-dependence is increasing.

But, while some parts of the world are islands of growing economic prosperity; other are mired in conflicts.

In Asia, the absence of an agreed security architecture creates uncertainty.

Threats of terror are expanding, and new challenges are emerging in cyber and outer-space.

And, global institutions conceived in 20th century, seem unable to cope with new challenges or take on new responsibilities.

In this world full of multiple transitions and economic opportunities; growing uncertainties and political complexities; existing threats and new challenges; our engagement can make a difference by promoting:

- Cooperation not dominance;
- Connectivity not isolation;
- Respect for Global Commons;
- inclusive not exclusive mechanisms; and above all
- adherence to international rules and norms.

India is already assuming her responsibilities in securing the Indian Ocean region.

A strong India-U.S. partnership can anchor peace, prosperity and stability from Asia to Africa and from Indian Ocean to the Pacific.

It can also help ensure security of the sea lanes of commerce and freedom of navigation on seas.

But, the effectiveness of our cooperation would increase if international institutions framed with the mindset of the 20th century were to reflect the realities of today.

Mr. Speaker,

Before arriving in Washington D.C., I had visited Her at in Western Afghanistan to inaugurate Afghan-India Friendship Dam, a 42 MW hydro-electric project built with Indian assistance. I was also there on the Christmas day last year to dedicate to that proud nation its Parliament, a testimony to our democratic ties.

Afghans naturally recognize that the sacrifices of American have helped create a better life.

But, your contribution in keeping the region safe and secure is deeply appreciated even beyond.

India too has made an enormous contribution and sacrifices to support our friendship with Afghan people.

A commitment to rebuild a peaceful, and stable and prosperous Afghanistan our shared objective.

Yet, Distinguished Members, not just in Afghanistan, but elsewhere in South Asia, and globally, terrorism remains the biggest threat.

In the territory stretching from West of India's border to Africa, it may go by different names, from Laskhar-e-Taiba, to Taliban to ISIS.

But, it's philosophy is common: of hate, murder and violence.

Although it's shadow is spreading across the world, it is incubated in India's neighbourhood.

I commend the members of the U.S. Congress for sending a clear message to those who preach and practice terrorism for political gains.

Refusing to reward them is the first step towards holding them accountable for their actions.

The fight against terrorism has to be fought at many levels.

And, the traditional tools of military, intelligence or diplomacy alone would not be able to win this fight.

Mr. Speaker,

We have both lost civilians and soldiers in combating it.

The need of the hour is for us to deepen our security cooperation.

And, base it on a policy:

- that isolates those who harbour, support and sponsor terrorists;
- that does not distinguish between “good” and “bad” terrorists; and that delinks religion from terrorism.

Also, for us to succeed, those who believe in humanity must come together to fight for it as one, and speak against this menace in one voice.

Terrorism must be delegitimized.

Mr. Speaker,

The benefits of our partnership extend not just to the nations and regions that need it most.

On our own, and by combining our capacities, we are also responding to other global challenges including when disaster strikes and where humanitarian relief is needed.

Far from our shores, we evacuated thousands from Yemen, Indians, Americans and others.

Nearer home, we were the first responders during Nepal's earthquake, in the Maldives water crisis and most recently during landslide in Sri Lanka.

We are also one of the largest contributors of troops to UN Peace Keeping Operations.

Often, India and the U.S. have combined their strengths in science, technology and innovation to help fight hunger, poverty, diseases and illiteracy in different parts of the world.

The success of our partnership is also opening up new opportunities for learning, security and development from Asia to Africa.

And, the protection of environment and caring for the planet is central to our shared vision of a just world.

For us in India, to live in harmony with mother earth is part of our ancient belief.

And, to take from nature only what is most essential is part of our civilizational ethos.

Our partnership, therefore, aims to balance responsibilities with capabilities.

And, it also focuses on new ways to increase the availability and use of renewable energy.

A strong U.S. support for our initiative to form an International Solar Alliance is one such effort.

We are working together not just for a better future for ourselves, but for the whole world.

This has also been the goal of our efforts in G-20, East Asia Summit and Climate Change summits.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Members

As we deepen our partnership, there would be times when we would have differing perspectives.

But, since our interests and concerns converge, the autonomy in decision making and diversity in our perspectives can only add value to our partnership.

So, as we embark on a new journey, and seek new goals, let us focus not just on matters routine but transformational ideas.

Ideas which can focus:

- Not just on creating wealth but also creating value for our societies;
- Not just on immediate gains but also long term benefits;
- Not just on sharing best practices but also shaping partnerships; and
- Not just on building a bright future for our peoples, but in being a bridge to a more united, humane and prosperous world.

And, important for the success of this journey would be a need to view it with new eyes and new sensitivities.

When we do this, we will realise the full promise of this extraordinary relationship.

Mr. Speaker,

My final thoughts and words would reiterate that our relationship is primed for a momentous future.

The constraints of the past are behind us and foundations of the future are firmly in place.

In the lines of Walt Whitman,

“The Orchestra have sufficiently tuned their instruments, the baton has given the signal.”

And to that, if I might add, there is a new symphony in play.

Thank you Mr. Speaker and Distinguished members for this honour.

Thank you very much.





# Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Mexico

June 08, 2016

At the invitation of His Excellency, Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, President of the United Mexican States, Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, paid a working visit to Mexico on June 08, 2016.

During discussions, leaders recognized the opportunities to define the path of the India-Mexico Privileged Partnership for the 21st Century that allows the growth of bilateral relations in economic field, in science and technology and in the most important issues of the global agenda reflecting a broad convergence of long-term political, economic and strategic goals.

President Enrique Peña Nieto elaborated on the structural reforms undertaken in Mexico to promote economic growth and development. On his part, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi highlighted the initiatives undertaken by his Government for the economic growth and the improvement of standard of living of the people.

In this context, both leaders:

## Political Dialogue

Instructed the Foreign Ministers of both countries to develop the road map of the Privileged Partnership suitable for the 21st Century, in the framework of the Seventh Mexico-India Joint Commission Meeting to be held in Mexico in 2016.

Look forward to the results of the Sixth Meeting of the Joint Committee on Science and Technology, and the Fourth Meeting of the High Level Group on Trade, Investment and Cooperation, which will be held in Mexico during the second half of 2016.

The two countries will update the bases of cooperation according to a convergent and comprehensive plan, will evaluate the progress made in diverse fields and will set new objectives and themes to strengthen the agenda of bilateral relations.

Had a detailed exchange of views on the regional issues of mutual interest, including the political and economic developments in Latin America, the CELAC and the Pacific Alliance, as well as the current situation in the Asia-Pacific region.

## Economic Partnership

Underscored the increasing importance of diversifying the economic exchanges to promote trade and investment to a level corresponding to their true potential.

Stressed the necessity of developing a greater connectivity between the two countries and encouraging cooperation in the infrastructure sector, among small and medium enterprises, in pharmaceutical products, in energy, in the automobile sector, in Information and Communication Technology, in agriculture, in food processing and in other related sectors.

Noted with satisfaction the growing interest for investment of the Indian companies in the energy sector -attracted by the structural reforms carried out in Mexico, as well as the opportunities for Mexican companies in the Indian market.

Agreed that cooperation is key to promote the investment and the use of solar energy. The two sides agreed to explore ways and means to boost the objectives of the International Solar Alliance.

Stressed the importance of promoting increased exchanges between the peoples of the two countries for better understanding and strengthening of bilateral links in the areas of culture, education and tourism.

### Bilateral Cooperation

Exchanged points of views and welcomed the opportunities offered by the convergence between the National Digital Strategy of Mexico and the Digital India Initiative, which share common objectives.

Welcomed collaboration in space science, earth observation, climate and environmental studies, and the efficient use of space-related resources available in India as well as in Mexico for remote sensing, advance warning for disaster prevention and launch of satellites between the Mexican Space Agency (AEM) and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

Considering that both countries have huge diaspora communities abroad, the Leaders agreed on exchanging views, information and share best practices with respect to the participation of networks, organizations and individuals in their diasporas in the development of communities of their origin and their residence, as well as for the welfare and protection of their respective nationals in foreign countries.

### Dialogue on Global Affairs

Pledged to continue promoting the shared goals of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as solutions with multilateral perspective, as well as to continue promoting cooperation on international security issues.

Reiterated their strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Reaffirmed the importance to have an effective multilateral system, with the United Nations at its core, and agreed on the importance of continuing supporting the progress in the process of comprehensive reforms of the United Nations Security Council.

Noted productive and substantive cooperation in the context of their participation in G-20.

Welcomed with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the Climate Change Conference held in Paris in December 2015 and applauded the signing by both countries of the Paris Agreement on April 22, 2016. They committed to ratify the Paris Agreement as soon as possible, as well as to develop new and renewable sources of energy to meet the developmental challenges of their respective countries.

President Enrique Peña Nieto cordially invited the Indian Prime Minister to visit Mexico again on a State visit in the near future. Similarly, Prime Minister, Shri Modi invited President Peña Nieto to pay a State visit to India. They agreed that suitable dates would be worked out through diplomatic channels.





## Visit of the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, to Ghana

June 12-14, 2016



Hon'ble President unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi gifted by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations and also planted a sapling at the Flag Staff House (Ghanaian Presidential Complex), an iconic building built with the Indian assistance through a Line of credit. Hon'ble President also visited the India-Ghana Kofi Annan Centre of ICT Excellence in Accra, set up with modest Indian assistance of US \$ 2.86 million.

Bilateral trade and investments have been steadily growing. India's cumulative investments in Ghana till date have exceeded US\$ 1 billion and bilateral trade crossed US \$ 3 billion mark in 2015-16.

President Mahama hosted a State Banquet in honour of Hon'ble President and accompanying delegation.

Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid a State visit to the Republic of Ghana from June 12-14, at the invitation of the President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. Mr. John Dramani Mahama.

Hon'ble President was received on his arrival by H.E. Mr. Kwesi Bekoe Amissah-Arthur, Vice-President of the Republic of Ghana and accorded a traditional Ghanaian welcome.

Hon'ble President had one-to-one meeting with President Mahama followed by delegation level talks. A number of Agreements were signed including setting up of a Joint Commission between India and Ghana and renewal of Cultural Exchange Programme.

Hon'ble President delivered an address at the Joint Business Forum and at the University of Ghana. Hon'ble President also interacted with the Indian community at a reception organized by the Indian High Commissioner in honour of Hon'ble President.





# Visit of Prime Minister of Thailand to India

June 16-18, 2016

H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, accompanied by his spouse Associate Professor Naraporn Chan-o-cha paid a State Visit to the Republic of India from June 16-18, 2016 at the invitation of Prime Minister of India. The Prime Minister of Thailand was accompanied by the Thai Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture and Cooperatives, Culture, Industry, Information & Communication Technology, Deputy Minister of Commerce, an official delegation and a business delegation.

During the visit, the Prime Minister of Thailand called on Shri Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice-President of India. He held talks with Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, who hosted a banquet in his honour. Smt Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister called on the Prime Minister of Thailand. The Prime Minister of Thailand also attended the Business meeting and delivered a keynote address. The first India-Thailand Business Forum came up with recommendations to expand and deepen business and investment opportunities between the two countries. The Prime Minister also visited Bodh Gaya.

The delegation level talks between Thailand and India were held on June 17, 2016 in a warm, cordial and friendly atmosphere, reflecting their excellent bilateral relations and friendship. The ties between the two countries are intertwined and deep rooted in

history, with interactions in multidimensional fronts, and extensive people-to-people contacts. In addition to the wide range of cooperation, Thailand and India have compatible strategies of Look West and Act East respectively, now evolved into a comprehensive partnership. The two Prime Ministers held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues, with a common goal to work closely towards the 70th anniversary of their diplomatic relations and beyond.

The following agreements were signed during the visit:

- Executive Programme of Cultural Exchange (Extension of CEP) for 2016-2019.
- Memorandum of Understanding between Nagaland University, India and Chiang Mai University, Thailand

The Prime Minister of Thailand expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister and to the people of India for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and the members of his delegation during his State visit. He also congratulated Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for the success of his initiatives and achievements during the past two years under his wise leadership. The Prime Minister of Thailand extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of India to visit Thailand, which was accepted.





# Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi to Uzbekistan

June 23-24, 2016

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi paid a visit to Uzbekistan on June 23, 2016 to attend the annual summit of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit ) with an aim to expand India's engagement in areas of security, defence and energy.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi held talks with Uzbekistan President, Islam Karimov on key bilateral and regional issues including the situation in Afghanistan as the two countries inked three pacts to boost cooperation between their foreign offices and in the field of culture and tourism.

President Karimov and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi reached understanding on a wide range of issues to further deepen Uzbekistan-India strategic relations, mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation in various fields, as well as international and regional issues of mutual interest.

The two sides reaffirmed their interest in expanding and further strengthening long-term bilateral cooperation covering diverse sectors such as political ties, security, counter-terrorism, trade and investment, science and technology as well as cultural linkages.

During the delegation-level talks, the two countries also agreed to explore various options to enhance surface connectivity between them.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi invited President Karimov to pay a visit to India at his convenience. The dates of the visit shall be agreed through diplomatic channels.





# Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, at (SCO) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit

June 23, 2016

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi arrived in Tashkent on June 23, 2016 to attend the annual summit of the SCO.

The two-day summit began on June 23, 2016, with the process of India's accession to the grouping as a full-fledged member along with Pakistan.

As the final process for India's accession as a full member of the SCO began, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said India's ties with the bloc will help protect the region from threats of radicalisation and violence asserting that it would adopt "zero tolerance" to terrorism.

In his address at the SCO summit, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi said India would significantly benefit from the grouping's strengths in energy and natural resources and in turn India's strong economy and vast market could drive economic growth in the SCO region.

He said India's membership of the SCO will help drive the region's economic growth.

At the summit, India signed the SCO's Memorandum of Obligations, kick-starting the process of its accession into the group as a full member.

India will have to sign around 30 other documents in the course of the year to complete the process for membership.

The SCO is increasingly seen as a counterweight to NATO and its membership will help India have a greater say in issues relating to security and defence besides combating terrorism.

India, one of the largest energy consuming countries in the world, is expected to get greater access to major gas and oil exploration projects in Central Asia once it becomes a member of the SCO. Many of the SCO countries have huge reserves of oil and natural gas.

In his address, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi exuded confidence that India's engagement with all SCO members will help in build a region which is an engine of economic growth for the world and is more stable and secure internally and strongly connected with other geographies.

Seeking deeper economic engagement, Prime Minister, Shri Modi said India's capacities in trade, investments, information and communication technology, space, agriculture, health care, small and medium scale industry can bring wide spread economic benefit to the SCO countries.

# Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi meets Chinese President Xi Jinping on sidelines of SCO

June 23, 2016

Seeking China's support for India's membership of NSG, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, urged Chinese President Xi Jinping to make a "fair and objective" assessment of India's application which is before the plenary of the 48-nation grouping that is currently meeting in Seoul.

Meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit, Prime Minister Modi said India's case should be judged on its own merits and China should contribute to an emerging consensus in the Seoul meeting.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi thanked President Xi for China's support to India's membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

Chinese President Xi Jinping extended his congratulations to Shri Narendra Modi over India's upcoming signing of a memorandum of obligation to join the SCO, a key step for India to obtain membership of the organisation.



# International Day of Yoga 2016



Yoga for Harmony & Peace

United Nations General Assembly has declared June 21<sup>st</sup> as an International Yoga Day on December 11, 2014. Yoga in India is considered to be around 5,000 year old mental, physical and spiritual practice. Yoga was originated in India in ancient time when people were used of meditation to transform their body and mind. Launching a particular date of practicing yoga all across the world and celebrating as yoga day was initiated by the Prime Minister of India to the United Nations General Assembly.

Yoga is very necessary and beneficial for all human being if it is practiced by all on daily basis in the early morning. Official name of this day is UN International Yoga Day and also called as Yoga Day. It is a worldwide event celebrated by the people of all countries through practicing yoga, meditation, debates, meetings, discussions, variety of cultural performances, etc.

## International Day of Yoga 2016

International Day of Yoga would be celebrated by the people throughout the world second time on June 21, 2016, at Tuesday.

## History of International Yoga Day

Celebrating yoga day all over the world as International Day of Yoga on June 21<sup>st</sup> of every year was declared by the United Nations General Assembly on December 11, 2014. The declaration was done after the call by the Indian Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to the United Nations General Assembly on September 27, 2014 during his address to the UN General Assembly. He call the United Nations General Assembly for adopting June 21<sup>st</sup> as an International Yoga Day to get all the benefits of yoga for the people all around the world.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has said during his address to the UN General Assembly that "Yoga is an invaluable gift of India's ancient tradition. It embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfilment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and well-being. It is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature. By changing our

lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help us deal with climate change. Let us work towards adopting an International Yoga Day."

The declaration of International Day of Yoga is the great moment for the India in the history. It took less than three months to be declared as the International Yoga Day by the United Nations General Assembly. Shri Narendra Modi had called for it on September 27, 2014 which was finally declared on December 11, 2014. It was first ever in the history that the initiative of any country has been proposed and implemented in the UN body within 90 days. This resolution has been adopted under the Global Health and Foreign Policy by the General Assembly in order to provide a holistic approach to the people worldwide for their health and well-being.

In order to create a great level of consciousness and positively changing the lifestyle of worldwide human population Indian Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has put his views for adopting a day especially for yoga while address to the United Nations General Assembly. He asked to the world leaders for adopting international Yoga day to deal with the declining health because of negative climate changes. Especially, he suggested June 21<sup>st</sup> for adopting the International Day of Yoga as this day is the longest day in Northern Hemisphere regions as well as of great significance for people in many parts of the world.

## International Yoga Day Celebration

The celebration of the event International day of yoga is supported by various global leaders. It is celebrated by the people of more than 170 countries including USA, China, Canada, etc. It is celebrated on international level by organizing the activities like yoga training campus, yoga competitions and so many activities to enhance the awareness about yoga benefits among common public all over the world. It is celebrated to let people know that regular yoga practice lead to the better mental, physical and intellectual health. It positively changes the lifestyle of the people and increase the level of well-being.

All members, observer states, United Nations system organizations, other international organizations, regional

organizations, civil society, governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and individuals get together to celebrate the International Day of Yoga in suitable manner according to the national priorities to raise the awareness about yoga.

## Objectives of International Yoga Day

International Day of Yoga has been adopted to fulfill the following objectives:

- To let people know the amazing and natural benefits of yoga.
- To connect people to the nature by practicing yoga.
- To make people get used of meditation through yoga.
- To draw attention of people worldwide towards the holistic benefits of yoga.
- To reduce the rate of health challenging diseases all over the world.
- To bring communities much close together to spend a day for health from busy schedule.
- To enhance growth, development and spread peace all through the world.
- To help people in their bad situations themselves by getting relief from stress through yoga.
- To strengthen the global coordination among people through yoga.
- To make people aware of physical and mental diseases and its solutions through practicing yoga.
- To protect unhealthy practices and promote and respect the good practices to make health better.
- To let people know their rights of good health and healthy life style to completely enjoy the highest standard of physical and mental health.
- To link between protection of health and sustainable health development.
- To get win over all the health challenges through regular yoga practice.
- To promote better mental and physical health of people through yoga practice.



# Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, celebrates International Yoga Day in Chandigarh - participates in mass Yoga demonstrations, addresses and mingles with people at Capitol Complex

June 21, 2016

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, celebrated the second International Day of Yoga at Chandigarh, where he joined approximately 30,000 participants in a mass Yoga demonstration.

Addressing the gathering at the iconic Capitol Complex, the Prime Minister said that, today, people in all parts of the country have connected with Yoga. He said that the world has come forward to support the idea of International Day of Yoga. He added that all sections of society too, have come together in this endeavour.

The Prime Minister said that the International Day of Yoga is a day linked to good health, and it has become a mass movement. He said that Yoga is not about

what one will get, but it is about what one can give up. He said that with zero budget, Yoga provides health assurance, and does not discriminate between rich and poor.

The Prime Minister called for focus in the next one year, on how to mitigate diabetes through Yoga. He said that to honour those who are working to popularize Yoga, two awards will be instituted, one at the national level, and the other at the international level.

The Prime Minister walked amidst, joined, and mingled with the participants of the mass Yoga demonstration.



# Celebration of International Day of Yoga 2016, Worldwide



# Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi's Message on Second International Day of Yoga

My dear friends from all over the world,

It gives me great pleasure to address you as we prepare for the 2nd International Day of Yoga – this unique occasion that brings all of us together to celebrate the invaluable gift of India's ancient tradition. When I outlined a vision for an International Day of Yoga in September 2014 at the United Nations General Assembly, even I did not anticipate the enormous enthusiasm for the occasion from all corners of the world. Your support and participation last year, and once again now redeems our commitment to nurture and promote this ancient discipline, and reaffirms yoga as an exemplary manifestation of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" - The world as one family.

I recall the iconic images from that momentous day last year. All the way from the Pacific Islands to Port of Spain, from Vladivostok to Vancouver and from Copenhagen to Cape Town, thousands gathered to

unite the bodies and minds through the practice of Yoga. And the reverberations of their discipline found a natural home at the UN Headquarters in New York, where the journey had begun. I myself was fortunate to celebrate the event along with 36,000 of my fellow citizens and foreign guests in New Delhi.

As so many of you have already discovered, Yoga is much more than a physical exercise – it enables us to access a new dimension of the self, even while providing a holistic approach to preventive healthcare and wellbeing. Yoga helps us to restore our balance and furnishes us with a much needed sense of clarity. And through its unifying power, we seek completeness, and at the same time, a oneness with the world.

Today all of you are the Ambassadors of Yoga, taking forward India's ancient message to the world. I thank you for your commitment and welcome you as sisters and brothers of India's family.



# H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka and Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, inaugurated the Duraiappah Stadium in Jaffna through video conferencing

H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka and Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, through video conferencing from New Delhi, jointly inaugurated the newly renovated Duraiappah Stadium in Jaffna on June 18, 2016. High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Shri Y.K. Sinha was also present at the venue.

The other Sri Lankan dignitaries present in Jaffna included Hon'ble Dayasiri Jayasekara, Minister of Sports, Hon'ble Reginald Cooray, Governor of Northern Province, Hon'ble Justice C.V. Wigneswaran, Chief Minister of Northern Province, Hon'ble Ms. Wijayakala Maheshwaran, State Minister of Child Affairs, Hon'ble V.S. Radhakrishnan State Minister of Education, Hon'ble Maheepala Herath, Chief Minister

of Sabaragamuwa Province, various Hon'ble Members of Parliament, Hon'ble Provincial Sports Ministers and Hon'ble Members of the Northern Provincial Council.

In New Delhi, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Shri Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor, Shri Nripendra Misra, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary and other senior officials from the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of External Affairs were present along with the Prime Minister of India. The Sri Lankan High Commissioner to India, H.E. Esala Werakoon, was also present.

Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka, stated that India's strong





relations with Sri Lanka has helped the latter get international support. He added that he will continue cooperation with India. President Sirisena described the renovated Duraiahapp stadium as a symbol of reconciliation, symbolic of turning away from a past of violence. He thanked Government of India for its development assistance to Sri Lanka and pledged to deepen ties with India.

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, began his address by recalling his visit to Jaffna, the first by an Indian Prime Minister. He stated that the Duraiahapp Stadium is not just brick and mortar but a symbol of optimism and economic development. Its successful completion is a signal that Sri Lanka has left the past behind and is now looking to the promise of a prosperous future.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi lauded the performance of 'Surya Namaskar', as part of International Day of Yoga celebrations, by almost 11000 school children. He said that the Yoga demonstration just performed has sent the message of holistic healthcare, harmonious and sustainable living with nature to the world.

He reiterated India's commitment to walk side by side with Sri Lanka as it charts its own path to progress and prosperity for all of its citizens.

The Stadium, named in honour of former Mayor of Jaffna, the Late Alfred Thambirajah Duraiahapp, has been renovated by the Government of India at a cost of Sri Lanka Rs. 145 million.

The renovated Stadium will benefit about 50,000 students from different schools and educational institutions in the Northern Province by providing modern infrastructure for sports and recreational activities. It will also encourage the overall development of youth of the Northern Province and in Sri Lanka at large. This project is part of the highly successful development partnership between India and Sri Lanka.

On December 11, 2014, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution piloted by India declaring June 21 each year as the "International Day of Yoga". The resolution was supported by more than 170 countries, with Sri Lanka being one of the first co-sponsors of the Resolution.

The International Day of Yoga 2016 is being celebrated across the Island with great enthusiasm. The mega yoga event at Duraiahapp Stadium was the first in a series of events being organised by High Commission of India in Colombo, and by the Assistant High Commission in Kandy and the Consulate General of India in Hambantota, throughout this week.





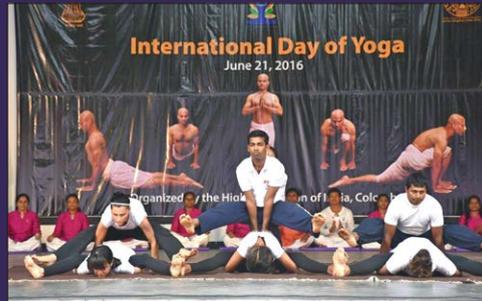
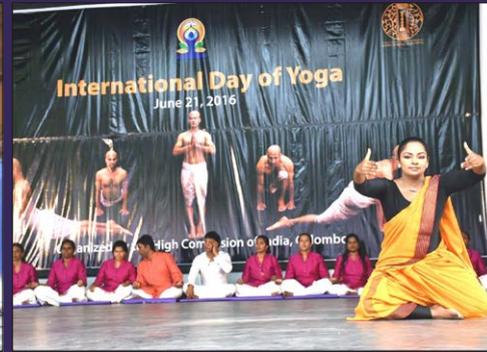
# Sri Lanka celebrates Interna

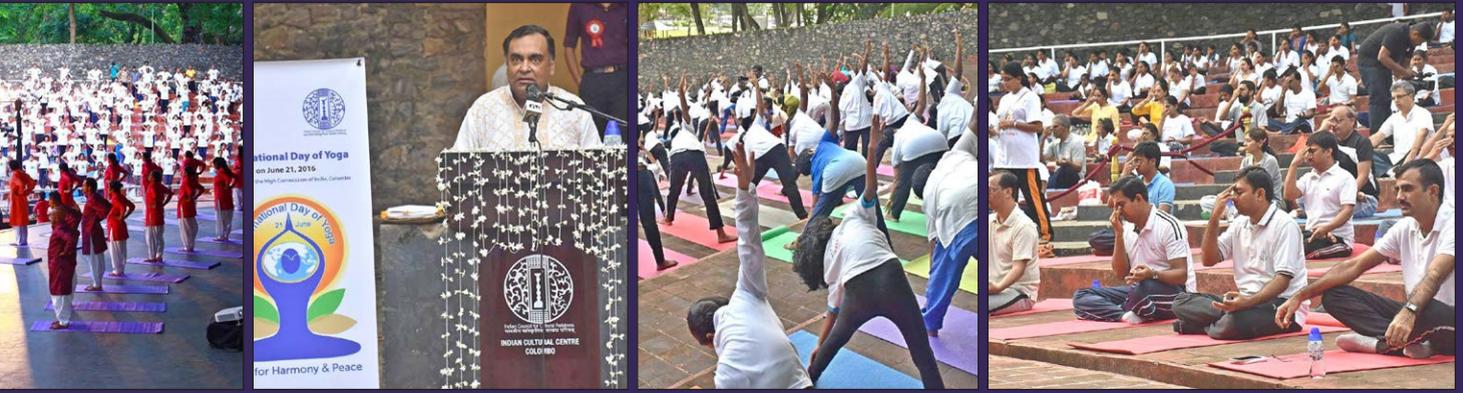
In December 2014, at India's request, the United Nations General Assembly declared June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. Sri Lanka was one of the first countries to co-sponsor the resolution. In pursuance of the United Nations resolution, Sri Lankans across the country have been participating in yoga events to celebratethe second International Day of Yoga.

The highlight of the celebrations was "Surya Namaskar" by 11,000 school children at the Duraiappah Stadium in Jaffna on June 18 2016, witnessed by H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka, and through video conference by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. Both leaders also dedicated the Stadium, renovated by India, to the people of Sri Lanka. The event was organized by the High Commission of India and the

Consulate General of India in Jaffna and the Ministry of Sports of Sri Lanka.

In Colombo, a mega yoga event was organized by the High Commission of India and the Indian Cultural Centre on June 21, 2016 at the Vihara Mahadevi Open Air Theatre. Messages from Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, were screened. More than 500 yoga enthusiasts attend the event, which was organized in collaboration with well-known yoga institutions of Sri Lanka, such as The Art of Living, Sethsada Yoga Institute, The Om Space, Brahma Kumari Raja Yoga Centre, Ashtanka Yoga Mandir, Dhanya Yoga Akademi, Om Kriya Babaji Yoga Aranyam, My Yoga Lounge, Hatha Yoga Centre, and Shakthi Aanada Yoga School of Batticoloa. To





# International Yoga Day with gusto

showcase the common thread of yoga running through the tradition and culture of both India and Sri Lanka, "Nrutya Yoga" - Yoga in Kandyan Dance, was performed by Ravibandhu Samanthi Narthana Ayathaneya, choreographed by eminent dancer and drummer of Sri Lanka, Sri Ravivandhu Vidhyapathi.

The Assistant High Commission of India organized a large yoga event on June 18, 2016 at Bogambara Stadium in Kandy, in partnership with 'Brahma Kumaris'. Hon'ble Sarath Ekanayake, Chief Minister of Central Province, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Yoga events were also organized in Nuwara Eliya, Hatton, Kurunegala and Ratnapura. Events will be held during the week in Dambulla, Badulla and Matale.

The Consulate General of India in Hambantota organized a large yoga event on June 18, 2016 at the Sangamitta Balika Vidyalaya in Galle. H.E. Dr. Hemakumara Nanayakkara, Governor of Southern Province, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. A yoga event was also organized on June 21, 2016 at the Public Ground in Monaragala. The yoga sessions were conducted by a visiting yoga guru from India.

Various other organizations and yoga practitioners held their own yoga events to mark the International Day of Yoga 2016.

The High Commission of India looks forward to yoga events being held on a regular basis all across Sri Lanka



# India and Sri Lanka signs MoU to gift 150 boats and fishing equipment to fishermen of Mullaithivu

March 31, 2016

India and Sri Lanka signed an MOU to supply 150 boats and fishing equipment to fishermen of Mullaithivu. The MoU was signed at the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development by Mr. Y.K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India and Ms. W.M.M.R. Adikari, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development. Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development presided over the ceremony.

Government of India will gift 150 boats and other fishing equipment to 300 beneficiaries in Mullaithivu. The project will be implemented in consultation with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development and relevant local authorities. The total cost of the project is SLR 100 million.

High Commission of India will float a tender to procure the items through a competitive bidding process.



# India and Sri Lanka exchange letters to implement Indian Housing Project in Central and Uva Provinces

April 1, 2016

India and Sri Lanka on April 01, 2016, exchanged letters to construct 4000 houses in the Central and Uva Provinces under a community driven-model as the third phase of the Indian Housing Project in Sri Lanka. The letters were exchanged by Shri Y.K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India and Hon'ble P. Thigambaram, Minister of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure & Community Development at the Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure & Community Development.

Hon'ble Mano Ganesan, Minister of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages and Hon'ble V.S. Radhakrishnan, State Minister of Education, Mr. Vadivel Suresh, MP, Mr. Udayakumar, Provincial Council member, Central Province, Mrs. Ranjini Nadarajapillai, Secretary, Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure & Community Development, Mr. V. Puththirasigamoney, Chairman, Plantation Human Development Trust, Mr. M.A.K. Giriagama, Director General, South Asia and SAARC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other senior officials of Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure & Community Development were present during the ceremony.

As per the agreement, 4000 houses will be constructed through the Estate Workers Housing Cooperative Societies (EWHCS). EWHCS in consultation with the beneficiaries will facilitate construction of houses. High Commission of India would release payment of a total of SLR 950,000 per house in four tranches, linked

to the physical progress, directly to the special bank account operated by the EWHCS. The beneficiaries will be selected through a transparent and norm-based process on the basis of clearly defined and objective criteria.

The services of four Implementing Agencies (UN-Habitat, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Habitat for Humanity and National Housing Development Authority) who have been providing necessary technical assistance and support under the second phase involving construction of 45,000 houses in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, will be utilised for the Indian Housing Project in the Central and Uva Provinces.

Government of Sri Lanka has earmarked an area of 7 perches per family for 1134 houses and hence 1134 houses will be taken up for construction initially. Government of Sri Lanka is also undertaking steps to transfer the ownership of the land in the names of the beneficiaries.

These 4000 houses to be constructed in the Central and Uva Provinces are a part of Government of India's overall commitment to construct 50,000 houses in Sri Lanka.

The project will be implemented in close consultation with the Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure & Community Development and Plantation Human Development Trust.



# Indian Navy's Training Squadron in Colombo

April 15-18, 2016

Three ships from the Indian Navy's First Training Squadron, namely Indian Naval Ships TIR and SUJATA, and Indian Coast Guard Ship VARUNA, are visiting Colombo from April 15 – 18, 2016.

During their stay in Colombo, a series of professional, training, cultural and sports interactions will take place between the ships' crew and Sri Lanka Navy personnel.

Ships from the First Training Squadron have been visiting Sri Lanka regularly. Their last visit was in March 2015, during which valuable training opportunities were provided to the Sri Lanka Navy.

The First Training Squadron, which comprises six indigenously built warships, including two Sail Training ships, imparts sea training to Naval and Coast Guard Trainee officers. These are the only ships of Indian Navy and Coast Guard where intensive practical ab-initio sea training in seamanship, navigation, shiphandling, boat work and technical aspects is conducted for officers over a period of 24 weeks, whilst exposing them to the rigours of life at sea. The Training Squadron is headed by Captain S.R. Ayyar, Senior Officer First Training Squadron and Commanding Officer INS Tir.

The First Training Squadron is a part of Indian Navy's prestigious Southern Naval Command (SNC), headed by Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, AVSM, VSM. SNC is the Training Command of the Indian Navy, which conducts basic

and advanced training for officers and sailors, including those from friendly foreign countries. As one of the finest destinations for training, Indian Navy has trained more than 13,000 international trainees from over 40 countries in the last four decades.



# Foundation stone laid for the Indian Housing Project in Central and Uva Provinces

April 24, 2016

High Commissioner of India, Shri Y. K. Sinha and Hon'ble P. Thigambaram, Minister of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure & Community Development jointly laid the foundation stone for the third phase of the Indian Housing Project at Dunsinane estate on April 24, 2016 in the presence of Hon'ble Mano Ganesan, Minister of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages and Hon'ble V.S. Radhakrishnan, State Minister of Education. Mr. Thilagaraj, MP, Central Provincial Council members, Mrs. Ranjini Nadarajapillai, Secretary, Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure & Community Development, Mr. V. Puththirasigamoney, Chairman, Plantation Human Development Trust, Mr. Bathiyabulumulla, CEO, Elpitiya plantations and Ms. Radha Venkataraman, Assistant High Commissioner of India in Kandy were also present during the ceremony.

As part of Government of India's commitment to construct 50,000 houses in Sri Lanka, 4000 houses will be constructed in the Central and Uva Provinces as the third and final phase of the project.

The houses in the estates will be constructed through the Estate Workers Housing Cooperative Societies (EWHCS), who in consultation with the beneficiaries will facilitate construction. The services of four Implementing Agencies (UN-Habitat, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Habitat for Humanity and National Housing Development Authority) who have been providing necessary technical assistance and support under the second phase involving construction of 45,000 houses in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, will be utilised for the Project.

High Commission of India would release payment of a total of SLR 950,000 per house in four tranches, linked to the physical progress, directly to the special bank account operated by the EWHCS. The beneficiaries will be selected through a transparent and norm-based process on the basis of clearly defined and objective criteria.

Government of Sri Lanka has earmarked an area of 7 perches per family for 1134 houses and hence only 1134 houses will be taken up for construction initially. Government of India will commence construction of the remaining 2866 houses as soon as land is made available.

The project will be implemented in close consultation with the Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure & Community Development and Plantation Human Development Trust.



# India participates in Buddha Rashmi Vesak celebrations in Colombo

21-25 May 2016

India has the honour to participate in the Buddha Rashmi Vesak celebrations at the kind invitation of the Government of Sri Lanka. India would, inter alia, be displaying a Vesak lantern modelled on the stupa at the Mahabodhi Temple in Gaya, Bihar, India.

The event is being jointly organised by the Presidential Secretariat and the Gangaramaya Temple from May 21-25, 2016 in Colombo.

Traditional accounts say that, after attaining enlightenment under the Bodhi tree, Lord Buddha spent the succeeding seven weeks meditating at seven different spots in the vicinity. Several specific places at the current Mahabodhi Temple relate to the traditions surrounding these seven weeks. The first week was spent under the Bodhi tree. During the second week, Lord Buddha remained standing and stared, uninterrupted, at the Bodhi tree. This spot is marked by the Animeshlocha Stupa, which is located on the north-east of the Mahabodhi Temple complex. Lord Buddha is said to have walked back and forth between the location of the Animeshlocha Stupa and the Bodhi tree. According to legend, lotus flowers sprung up along this route and it is now called Ratnachakrama or the jewel walk.

The lantern being exhibited is based on the architecture of this stupa at the Mahabodhi Temple.

The Mahabodhi Temple is one of the oldest brick structures in eastern India. In June 2002, the Mahabodhi Temple became a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

India-Sri Lanka relations have a rich legacy of civilizational, cultural, religious and linguistic interaction. The advent of Buddhism in Sri Lanka in the 3rd century BCE is linked with the arrival of Prince Mahendra in Sri Lanka known as Arahat Mahinda and later of Princess Sanghamitra known as Sanghamitta Theri, who were the children of the great Indian Emperor Ashoka. The links forged since then have become stronger over the years. Cultural traits brought from India have blossomed and have been adapted to suit the Sri Lankan way of life.

India's participation in the Buddha Rashmi Vesak celebrations is yet another manifestation of the rich cultural tapestry that the two countries share, based on historic affinities, which have been nourished over the millenia.





# India lends a helping hand to Sri Lanka

May 20, 2016

In response to the request for assistance made by the Government of Sri Lanka and as an expression of our solidarity, Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, announced on May 19, 2016 that India would provide aid on emergency basis to help assist those affected by the floods and landslides in various parts of Sri Lanka.

Pursuant to this commitment, India dispatched two ships of the Indian Navy from Kochi on the morning of May 20, 2016, carrying various relief supplies. The same day, an Indian Air Force C-17 transport aircraft was also sent with additional supplies.

The C-17 aircraft, carrying around 50 tonnes of relief material, landed at Katunayake airport. Its cargo included 700 tents, 1000 tarpaulin sheets, 10 electric generators, 100 emergency lamps and medication against epidemics for 10,000 people, apart from torches, rain coats, umbrellas, folding mattresses, water filters and water purification equipment. These had been identified as priority relief materials by Sri Lankan authorities.

In a simple ceremony today at Katunayake Airport, Shri Y. K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, handed over the relief materials to Hon. Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, Minister of Disaster Management

of Sri Lanka. Commander of Sri Lanka Air Force, Air Marshal Gagan Bulathsingha, Mr. S. S. Miyanawala, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and other senior officials of Sri Lankan Government and Air Force were also present on the occasion.

Separately, the two Indian Navy Ships (INS Sutlej and INS Sunayna) docked on May 20, 2016 at Colombo Port. Their cargo of over 30 tonnes was handed over by Shri Y. K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, to Hon'ble Harsha de Silva, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka. This included inflatable boats, diving equipment, medical supplies, drinking water, water purification tablets, rations and consumables. Mrs. Chitrangane Wagiswara, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and senior officials from Sri Lanka Navy were also present on the occasion.

Sri Lanka occupies a special place in the hearts and minds of Indians, and India's emergency relief assistance is a manifestation of our abiding friendship. India will continue to work closely with the Government of Sri Lanka to address longer term rehabilitation needs of the affected people as part of its development partnership with Sri Lanka.

# Visit to Sri Lanka of inductees into the Indian Administrative Services

May 31, 2016

A team of thirty six newly inducted Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officers visited Sri Lanka from May 22 to 26, 2016 as part of the foreign exposure component of the IAS induction programme at the Institute of Management in Government, Thiruvananthapuram, Trivandrum, Kerala.

The programme in Sri Lanka was conducted and coordinated by Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA). It aimed at exchange of administrative best practices between Indian and Sri Lankan administrators. The visit was also an opportunity for furthering bilateral understanding and deepening cooperation between the two important administrative structures of India and Sri Lanka. As part of their visit, the IAS officers interacted with various Government departments and Ministries in Sri

Lanka. The officers were given a presentation by the Board of Investment on the state of the economy and possible areas of cooperation and investment. They visited schools, secretariats, divisional offices, and the Central Provincial Council. The IAS officers interacted with officials at different levels of the Government of Sri Lanka to obtain a comprehensive understanding of Sri Lankan administration. The officers also visited places of interest outside Colombo. These included the ancient city of Kandy, the historic Galle Fort and salubrious Nuwara Eliya.

The visit enabled the IAS officers to gather a holistic view of Sri Lanka and imbibe its natural beauty and ancient culture. The visiting IAS inductee team took away many positive aspects of their interaction with Sri Lankan authorities and the citizens of the country, for



possible replication in India. They also exchanged their own administrative experiences in the diverse states represented by them. In a gesture of spontaneous solidarity with the Sri Lankan citizens affected by the recent tragic floods, the visiting IAS officers handed over Sri Lankan Rs. 65,000, from their personal contributions, to the Director General of SLIDA for handing over to the Government of Sri Lanka.

The team of IAS officers visited Sri Lanka under the mechanism of cooperation between the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) and SLIDA signed in October 2007. This allows for exchange of officers, staff, researchers and trainees. Under this programme of cooperation more than 700 newly inducted IAS officers have already visited Sri Lanka in the last two years. Government training institutes from West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and LBSNAA itself, have participated under this mechanism.

# India and Sri Lanka sign MoU for a Women Empowerment Project in Ampara

June 7, 2016

India and Sri Lanka on June 7, 2016, signed an MoU to set up a Women's Community Learning Centre in Ampara, Sri Lanka. The MoU was signed at the High Commission of India by Shri Y.K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India and Ms. Chandrani Senaratne, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs. The ceremony was presided over by Hon'ble Ms. K.D.M. Chandrani Bandara, Minister of Women and Child Affairs of Sri Lanka.

The project envisages setting up a Community Learning Centre in Ampara to impart vocational training to war affected/destitute women from Ampara district in the areas of garment making and agro-food processing. The project will impart livelihood skills as well as capacity building which will lead to the socio-economic empowerment of women in the target areas. 20 Master trainees and 100 grassroot trainees will be trained under the project. The project will be implemented in two years.

The Government of India has been implementing a similar project in Batticaloa since June 2010. Under the Batticaloa project, more than 1500 war affected/destitute women have been trained from Batticaloa District in seven vocational areas:

- (i) Textiles and Garments;
- (ii) Surface Ornamentation;
- (iii) Agro food processing;
- (iv) Computers;
- (v) Enterprise Development;
- (vi) Solar lantern and
- (vii) Roof rain water harvesting.

SEWA, an Indian NGO, is the implementing partner of Government of India. The project is being implemented in close consultation with the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs of Sri Lanka.



# India signs agreements with Implementing Agencies for Indian Housing Project in Central and Uva Provinces

June 10, 2016

The High Commission of India signed agreements to award work to four Implementing Agencies (IASW), viz., UN-HABITAT; International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in partnership with Sri Lanka Red Cross; National Housing Development Authority (NHDA); and Habitat for Humanity to implement the housing project in the Central and Uva Provinces. The project envisages construction of 4000 houses through an innovative community-driven model involving the Estate Workers Housing Cooperative Societies (EWHCS) and beneficiaries. The 4000 houses is a part of India's commitment to construct 50,000 houses in Sri Lanka.

The signing ceremony was held in the presence of Mrs. Ranjini Nadarajapillai, Secretary, Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure & Community Development. Officials from the Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure & Community Development and Plantation Human Development Trust were also present.



# Opening Remarks by High Commissioner at the Panel Discussion “India - Sri Lanka Relations in the 21st Century” organised by the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies on 16 June, 2016

## India – Sri Lanka Relations in the 21st Century

June 16, 2016 - BCIS Auditorium, BMICH



Dr. Ranjith Cabral, Director, Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies, Dr. Harinda Vidanage, Director (Research), Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies, Professor Sudharshan Seneviratne, Other eminent speakers, Distinguished Invitees, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for inviting me to make the opening remarks at this important

seminar.

Our two countries share links that go back more than two millennia, and these links serve as the bedrock of our modern bilateral ties. Yet, on occasions, they tend to make us focus on events of the past, rather than the potential of the future. I think it is important that even as we nurture the unique historical ties that bind us, we make a conscious effort to look at how we can march together towards our shared destiny.

It is evident that a new and transformative phase in our relations began last year. Four high level bilateral visits within 90 days of the formation of a new government in Sri Lanka last year heralded a new beginning. President H. E. Sirisena paid a State Visit to India in February 2015, which was his very first overseas visit after assuming office. The next month, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi made a historic visit to Sri Lanka, the first stand alone bilateral visit to Sri Lanka by an Indian Prime Minister since 1987. In addition to these, there was also an exchange of visits between the Foreign Ministers of our two countries in the first three months of 2015. The high level exchanges continued during the year with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe visiting New Delhi in September 2015, his first official visit abroad after the January elections, and President H. E. Sirisena and Prime Minister Modi meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015.

The momentum generated by these visits has continued this year. Our Foreign Secretary visited in January 2016. Our External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, visited Sri Lanka for the Joint Commission Meeting in February

2016, held after a gap of three years. Last month, President Sirisena visited New Delhi, Ujjain and Sanchi.

Sri Lanka is an integral part of Prime Minister Modi's “Neighbourhood First” policy. “Neighbourhood First” recognizes that India's growth is linked to the prosperity of its neighborhood. Prime Minister Modi has a vision of a neighbourhood where trade, investment, ideas and people move seamlessly across borders, and India will continue to work towards this lofty vision of promoting greater connectivity among SAARC countries. A key element of this vision is strengthening bilateral ties with Sri Lanka, and indeed other SAARC countries.

Economic ties are at the core of India's renewed engagement with the world. Under our Prime Minister, there has been an intense focus on investments and growth, which is already paying dividends. Consider Foreign Direct Investments. With FDI of US\$ 40 billion from April 2015 to March 2016, India has emerged as a magnet for global investments, and this trend is accelerating. Just this month Amazon Chief Executive Jeff Bezos announced that his company would invest an additional \$3 billion in India, boosting its committed investment in the country to over \$5 billion. Driven by these and other large investments, India's e-commerce business is estimated to increase to \$119 billion by 2020. Thanks to investments, Indian GDP is expanding at a healthy 7.6% per annum, making India the fastest growing major economy of the world. Latest estimates are that India's economic growth may cross the 8 percent-mark this fiscal year.

This should be very welcome news for a neighbouring economy, such as Sri Lanka's. We hope that Sri Lankan businesses will take advantage of their proximity to India. I am happy that bilateral trade has remained buoyant, with two way trade at US\$ 4.6 billion during 2015, of which Indian exports were around US\$ 4 billion and Sri Lankan exports were around US\$ 645 million. India is also among the top investors in Sri Lanka with cumulative investments of over US\$ 1 billion since 2003. From the Sri Lankan side, companies like Brandix and MAS Holdings are large investors in India and are doing extremely well.

The cornerstone of our trade relations has been the India - Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA), which has now been in force for more than 15 years. Contrary to perception in certain quarters, both India and Sri Lanka have reaped tremendous benefits from the FTA. Consider these figures:

in 1999, our total bilateral trade was a meager US\$ 561 million, out of which Sri Lankan exports were just US\$ 49 million. Fast forward to 2015. Last year, Sri Lanka exported US\$ 645 million to India. Sri Lankan exports have, thus, increased nearly 13 times since the FTA was signed. Total bilateral trade has increased more than 8 times. This is a big achievement. Sri Lankan exports have used the FTA to enter Indian markets and nearly 60% of Sri Lankan exports take advantage of the FTA concessions. On the other hand, around 90% of Indian exports to Sri Lanka do not use the FTA concessions. Thus, it is obvious who has benefitted more from the FTA.

During his visit to India in September 2015, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe proposed concluding an Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ETCA). We have welcomed this offer, and look forward to discussions on how to elevate our FTA to include areas such as investment, services and technology cooperation. I am aware that some in Sri Lanka have raised concerns about signing an ETCA with India, and I do believe that it is upto Sri Lankans themselves to decide on the contours of any agreement that they sign with a foreign country. However, I am happy that a genuine debate has now begun in Sri Lanka on the issue, rather than a one-sided presentation of misinformation by some.

Let me move on to another important facet of our close friendship, that of development partnership. India has committed over US\$ 2.6 billion in development assistance to Sri Lanka, with over US\$ 435 million in outright grants. This is an enormous contribution, and our projects cover areas like housing, de-mining, agriculture, education, health, livelihood support, fisheries, industry, handicrafts, culture, sports and connectivity. Our flagship housing project, which aims to construct 50,000 houses, is proceeding well with over 45,000 houses constructed till date. The third phase, to construct 4,000 houses in the Central and Uva Provinces through an innovative community-driven approach, was launched in the last week of April 2016. This project is being hailed as a benchmark for others. I encourage you to go and see these solid and sensible houses standing pretty in the countryside with their red tiled roofs!! These houses will provide shelter to generations of Sri Lankans and stand as testimony to the friendship between our two countries.

I am also happy to state that that H.E. President Sirisena and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, through video conferencing, will be jointly inaugurating the newly renovated Duraipappah Stadium in Jaffna on June 18. The Stadium, named in honour of former Mayor of Jaffna, the Late Alfred Thambirajah Duraipappah, who was so brutally murdered, has been renovated by the Government of India at a cost of Rs. 145 million. The renovated Stadium will benefit more than 50,000 students from different schools and educational institutions in the Northern Province by providing modern infrastructure for sports and recreational activities. The International Day of Yoga 2016 will also be celebrated on the occasion, with the participation of thousands of Jaffna residents.

Our cultures have been interwoven in a unique tapestry since time immemorial. This finds reflection in the large number of Indian tourists who come to Sri Lanka to savour its breathtaking beauty. The increasing air connectivity between our two countries is a good reflection of this strong

linkage. There are now 154 flights a week between Colombo and eight destinations in India, and India continues to be the largest source for tourists visiting Sri Lanka, accounting for almost one-fifth of all tourist arrivals. In recognition of this special bond between our countries, special measures were taken in 2015 to simplify issuance of Indian visas to Sri Lankan nationals. The High Commission of India launched a Festival of India in Sri Lanka in November 2015 with 'NriyaruPa', a scintillating dance medley from different parts of India performed in Colombo, Kandy and Galle. I want to highlight the theme of the Festival, which is "Sangam", a confluence of cultures of India and Sri Lanka. The logo of the Festival, which is a pictorial depiction of "Sangam" in Sinhala, Hindi and Tamil, is a manifestation of the symbiotic ties that bind us. The Festival of India is a celebration of our shared civilizational heritage and will further strengthen the close links between our peoples and cultures. Various events will be held as part of the Festival during 2016.

India and Sri Lanka continue to enjoy a strong defence partnership based on extensive training and close linkages between our Armed Forces. India is Sri Lanka's largest partner in defence training. As a testimony to this close cooperation, India's state of the art aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, visited Sri Lanka on a good will visit in January 2016, its maiden overseas port call since after being inducted into the Indian Navy two years ago.

Let me also briefly touch on the sensitive issue of fishermen of both countries crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). This is a humanitarian issue. It has livelihood implications and it is stemming from long standing socio-economic patterns of subsistence. As a long term measure, India is providing financial assistance to our fishermen to move to deep sea fishing but this is a process which will take some time. This issue was discussed during the Joint Commission meeting this February. We look forward to the visit of Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development to India later this year to discuss solutions to this vexed issue.

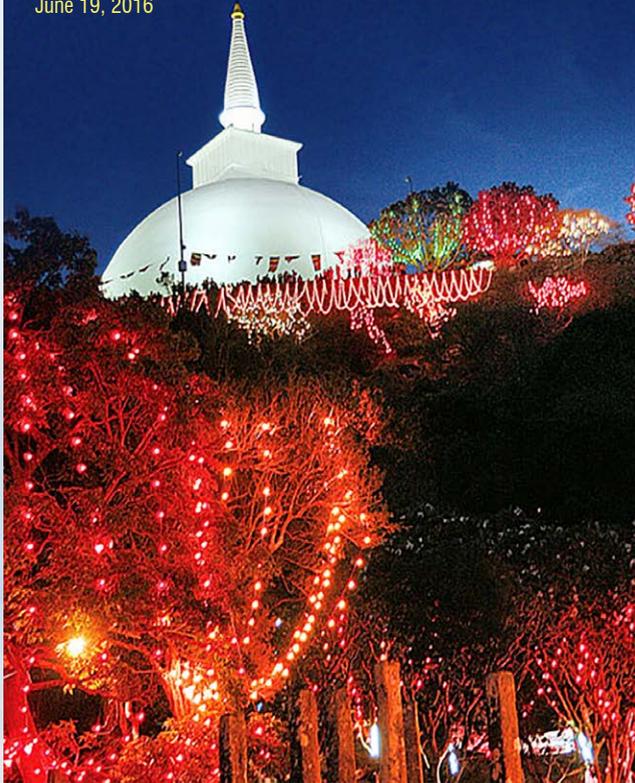
India and Sri Lanka are closest neighbours in every sense. We all have dealt with issues of identities, inclusion, claims, dignity and opportunity for different sections of our societies. The need for national reconciliation in Sri Lanka through a political settlement of the ethnic issue has been reiterated by India at the highest levels. India's consistent position is in favour of a negotiated political settlement, which is acceptable to all communities within the framework of a united Sri Lanka. Government of Sri Lanka has commenced this journey by taking important and positive steps. India has an abiding interest in the security of Sri Lanka and remains committed to Sri Lanka's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity. India will continue to remain engaged with Sri Lanka and offer our support in a spirit of partnership and cooperation.

I have no doubt that as close neighbours whose destinies are linked, our bilateral partnership will continue to scale even greater heights.

Long live India-Sri Lanka friendship!

# High Commissioner participates at the Aloka Pooja in Mihintale on Poson Poya Day

June 19, 2016



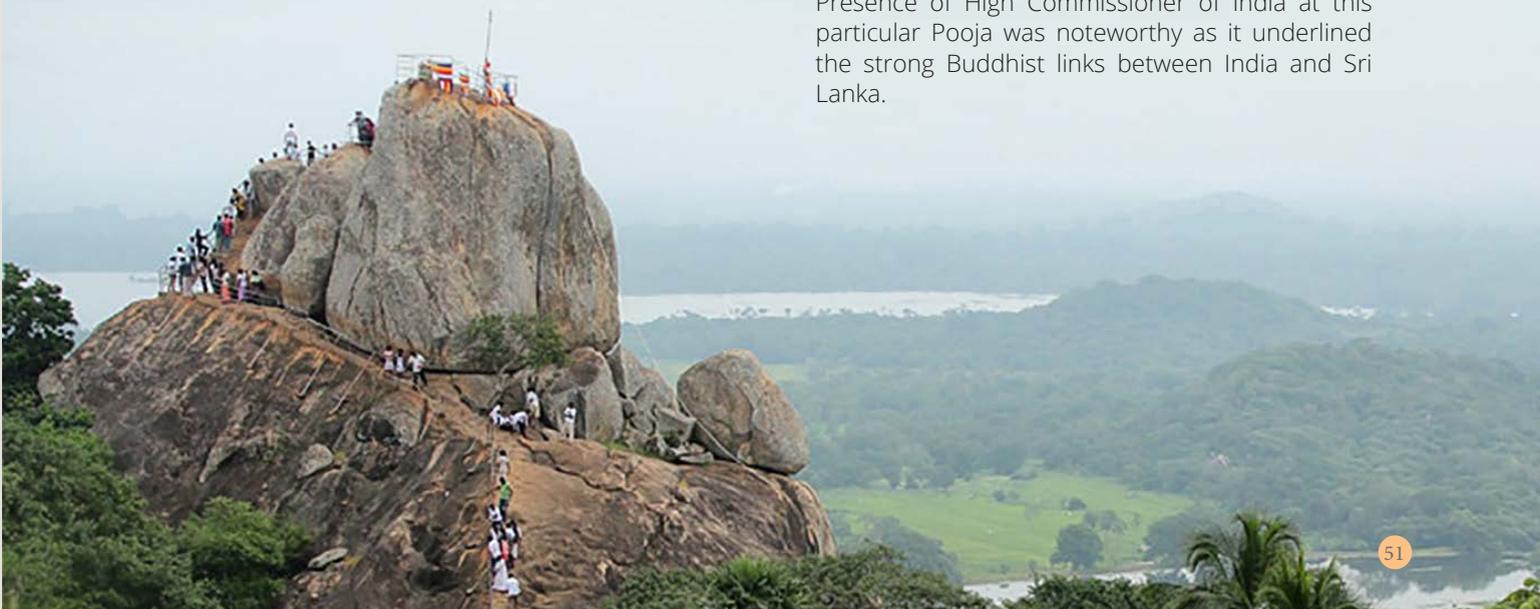
In a significant and special gesture, the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Mr. Y.K. Sinha, was invited to participate, as the Guest of Honour, in the traditional Buddhist Aloka Pooja, held on Poson Poya Day in Mihintale on June 19, 2016. President Maithripala Sirisena inaugurated the Pooja.

The Pooja is sponsored by the Government-owned newspaper, the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited



(ANCL) to commemorate the arrival in Sri Lanka, of Arahata Mahinda (son of Emperor Ashoka), from India, around the year 247 BCE, with the message of Dhamma, and his encounter with the reigning King Devanampiyatissa, leading to the latter embracing Buddhism. Poson Poya is a national holiday and observed with great religious fervour, since it is the most significant religious event among Sinhala Buddhists, after Vesak (Buddh Pournima).

Presence of High Commissioner of India at this particular Pooja was noteworthy as it underlined the strong Buddhist links between India and Sri Lanka.



# Unleashing India's Entrepreneurial Energy

## Unleashing India's Entrepreneurial Spirit

World Bank rank for  
'Ease of Doing  
Business'

improved to  
**130**

Making India  
Self-Reliant by  
**3C Model**



Liberalized  
**FDI Rules**  
across multiple sectors

Sanctioned loans to **1.18 Cr** people amounting to **₹68,000 Cr**  
for small scale entrepreneurs through Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

**I strongly believe that India has a lot of latent entrepreneurial energy, which needs to be harnessed so that we become a nation of job givers, more than job seekers.**

**– Shri Narendra Modi**

The NDA Government is focused on giving a boost to entrepreneurship. The 'Make in India' initiative is based on four pillars to boost entrepreneurship in India, not only in manufacturing but also in other sectors.

**New Processes:** 'Make in India' recognizes 'ease of doing business' as the single most important factor to promote entrepreneurship.

**New Infrastructure:** Availability of modern and facilitating infrastructure is a very important requirement for the growth of industry. Government intends to develop industrial corridors and smart cities to provide infrastructure based on state-of-the-art technology with modern high-speed communication and integrated logistic arrangements.

**New Sectors:** 'Make in India' has identified 25 sectors in manufacturing, infrastructure and service activities and detailed information is being shared on them with all stakeholders.

**New Mindset:** Industry is accustomed to see Government as a regulator. 'Make in India' intends to change this by bringing a paradigm shift in how Government interacts with industry. The Government's approach will be that of a facilitator and not that of a regulator.

The Government is adopting a three pronged strategy to boost entrepreneurship. This is a 3C Model being worked upon: Compliances, Capital & Contract Enforcement.

## Compliances

India made rapid strides in the 'Ease of Doing Business' rankings by the World Bank rising to 130th rank. Today, starting a new business is easier than ever before. Unnecessary compliances have been removed and a lot of permissions can be obtained online.

Process of applying for Industrial License (IL) and Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEM) has been made online and this service is now available to entrepreneurs on 24x7 basis. Around 20 services are integrated & will function as a single window portal for obtaining clearances from various governments and government agencies.

Government of India with support from World Bank group and KPMG carried out an assessment of implementation of business reforms by State Govts. These rankings will allow States to learn from one another and replicate success stories, thereby rapidly improving the regulatory environment for business nationwide.

The Government also liberalized India's FDI rules across multiple sectors to facilitate investment in India.

## Capital

Around 58 million non-corporate enterprises provided one 128 million jobs in India. 60% of them were in rural areas. Over 40% were owned by people from the Backward Classes and 15% by Scheduled Castes and Tribes. But bank credit accounted for a tiny share of their financing. Most of them never get any bank credit. In other words the most employment-intensive sector of the economy gets the least credit. To change this scenario, the Govt launched the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana & the MUDRA Bank.

It has been started with the aim of availing collateral-free cheap credit to the small scale entrepreneurs who often have to pay exorbitant interest rates. In the brief period since its launch, it has already sanctioned about 1.18 crore loans amounting to almost 65,000 crores. The number of people getting a loan below Rs 50,000 registered a growth of 555% in April- September 2015 over the corresponding period of the previous year.

## Contract Enforcement

To achieve better contract enforceability, the Arbitration Law has been changed to make arbitrations cheaper & faster. The law would impose deadlines to resolve cases & empower tribunals to enforce decisions.

The Government has also come up with a modern bankruptcy code, which will make exiting business easier.

# Leveraging the Power of JAM: Jan Dhan, Aadhar and Mobile

**Empowering Lives through Jan Dhan Yojana**

Shri Narendra Modi

- 19.72 crore Bank Accounts opened
- Deposits of more than Rs 28,699.65 crore
- More than 1.26 lakhs Bank Mitras deployed
- 131012 Mega Financial Literacy camps organized
- Around 12.24 crore people included in social security cover
- Thousands of people have availed overdraft facility
- Insurance cover helping people in times of crisis

**AM vision, will serve as the bedrock of many initiatives to come. For me, JAM is about Just Achieving Maximum.**

**Maximum value for every rupee spent.**

**Maximum empowerment for our poor.**

**Maximum technology penetration among the masses.**

**-Shri Narendra Modi**

67 years after Independence, India still had a large part of the population who had no access to banking services. This meant, they had neither any avenues for Savings, nor any opportunity to get institutional credit. PM, Shri Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana on 28th August to address this fundamental issue. Within a matter of months, this scheme has radically transformed lives and futures of millions of Indians. In just over a year, 19.72 crore bank accounts were opened. 16.8 crore Rupay cards have been issued so far. There have been deposits worth Rs 28699.65 crores. A record 1,25,697 Bank Mitras (Bank Correspondents) have also been deployed. It also set the Guinness World Record for most bank accounts opened in one week - 1,80,96,130.

While opening millions of bank accounts were a challenge, inducing a behavioural change to get people start using their bank accounts was another major challenge. The no of zero balance accounts have registered a steep fall from 76.8% in September 2014 to 32.4% in December 2015. More than Rs 131 crore has also been availed as overdraft so far.

All this was possible because of PM Shri Narendra Modi's thrust and his power of galvanizing masses and the government machinery. This enormous task was taken up in mission mode and achieved with an exemplary partnership and participation of the government and public.

While the bank accounts have given millions of Indians access to banking services, they have also played a major role in stopping corruption. Now, subsidies get deposited directly in the bank accounts in the form of direct benefit transfers, eliminating leakages and scope for any discretionary action. PAHAL Yojana, recently entered the Guinness Book of World Records for being the world's largest direct cash transfer scheme. Under PAHAL Yojana, LPG subsidies are directly deposited into the bank accounts. Under this scheme, more than 14.62 crore people are receiving direct cash subsidies. This scheme has also helped identify and block around 3.34 crore duplicate or inactive accounts, helping save thousands of crores. Currently the Government is using Direct Benefit Transfers for around 35-40 schemes and approximately Rs 40,000 crores were directly transferred to the beneficiaries in 2015.

Once the basic banking facilities for people were in place, the NDA Government embarked on a historic move of providing an insurance & pension cover to the citizens. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana provides accident insurance worth Rs 2 Lakh at just Rs 12 per year. Pradhan Mantri Jivan Jyoti Bima Yojana provides life insurance at just Rs 330 per year. Atal Pension Yojana provides a pension of upto Rs 5000 a month depending on the contribution. More than 9.2 crore people have enrolled for Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima & almost 3 crore people have joined Pradhan Mantri Jivan Jyoti Bima Yojana. Around 15.85 lakh people have registered for the Atal Pension Yojana.

**Leveraging the Power of JAM**  
Jan Dhan, Aadhar & Mobile

**1,80,96,130** Guinness World Record for most bank accounts opened in one week

<b>19.72 crore</b> Bank accounts opened	<b>16.8 crore</b> Rupay cards issued	<b>28k crore</b> Cash Deposits	<b>131 crore</b> Overdraft
<b>Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana</b> Provides accident insurance worth Rs 2 Lakh at Rs 12 / year	<b>Pradhan Mantri Jivan Jyoti Bima Yojana</b> Provides life insurance at just Rs 330/year 3 crore - people joined	<b>Atal Pension Yojana</b> Provides pension upto Rs 5000 / mo 15.85 lakh - people registered	

# A Government of Firsts

Jun 07, 2016



**“Reform is not the end in itself. Reform for me is just a way station on the long journey to the destination. The destination is the transformation of India”**  
**– Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**

What is “Government of Firsts” is a legitimate questions that can be asked. Is it about taking steps never taken before, or resolving issues pending since decades, sometimes since Independence? Is it about laying foundations of something truly historic or is it about achieving for the first something long cherished? To answer this question, let’s look at some facts

## Banking for the Unbanked

As on 11th May 2016, 21.81 crore Jan-Dhan accounts have been opened in various banks. This is no ordinary feat. These many Indians till now were completely outside the formal financial system. For the first time, they are now part of financial mainstream. Against their Jan Dhan Accounts, Rs. 17.97 crore RuPay cards have already been issued and 9.81 crore accounts are linked to Aadhaar. The total savings in these accounts has jumped to Rs 37,616 crore with only 26.3% of account holders not maintaining any balance. Very soon, the RuPay cards can be used both for debit and credit, facilitating cashless financial transactions.

## Securing the unsecured

For the first time, more than 12 Crore people across India already have a social security cover. Three Schemes- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) will ensure social security. The Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana is a low-cost personal accidental insurance scheme to increase the insurance penetration level in the country that provides a cover of Rs. 2 lakh for a premium of just Rs. 12 per year. Over 9.43 crore Policies have been issued under this scheme. The Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana covers natural and accidental death risks up to Rs.2 lakhs to any Savings Bank holders in the age group of 18-50 years for a premium of just Rs. 330/- per year, while the Atal Pension Yojana (APJ)

is a pension Scheme for the unorganized sector. The Government contributes 50% of beneficiary premium (up to Rs 1000) for 5 years to those who joined the scheme before March, 2016.

## Swachh Bharat

To accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put focus on sanitation, the Prime Minister of India launched the Swachh Bharat Mission on 2nd October 2014. Over 2.07 crore toilets have been constructed in India in less than two years.

## Direct Benefit Transfer

For the first time ever, subsidies worth more than Rs 61,822 crore were directly transferred to people’s bank accounts. The government is implementing Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme for LPG subsidy. Also, subsidies in Housing Schemes, Social Security Assurances and Scholarships are going directly to the deserved. Many experts have recommended that DBT should be implemented for food subsidy as well.

## Smoke-free life for poor

For the first time, poor families have been given a smoke-free life by universalizing LPG connections. Under the recently launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana LPG connections will reach five crore women below the poverty line (BPL). One has just to see the reaction of women who have already received the LPG connections to understand what it means to them.

## Funding the unfunded

For the first time, collateral-free loans have been disbursed to more than 3 Crore small entrepreneurs. The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana offers formal access to credit for small entrepreneurs of India, thereby enabling the Indian economy to grow and prosper. Stressing the contribution of small entrepreneurs in the economy, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has expressed confidence that within a year’s time, the major banks would also adopt the MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) model.

## No More Worries on OROP

Under the One Rank One Pension scheme the government has committed to revise pension every five years. Pension will be re-fixed on basis of average of minimum and maximum pension of personnel retiring in 2013 in the same rank and with the same length of service. Arrears will be paid in four equal half yearly instalments, but will be paid in a single instalment for family pensioners and Gallantry award winners.



### Files on Netaji

For the first time files regarding Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose were declassified by the government. The first set of 100 declassified files was made publicly available on Netaji's 119th Birth Anniversary on January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016. These include 36 files of PMO, 18 files of MHA and 46 files from MEA covering the period 1956 to 2013. The files were made available online at [www.netajipapers.gov.in](http://www.netajipapers.gov.in) fulfilling the long-standing public demand to access these files and to facilitate scholars to carry out research on Netaji.

### No more free reign for Black Money

For the first time, a Special Investigation Team was constituted under the chairmanship of a former Supreme Court Judge. A new Black Money Act has been enacted with strict penalty provisions. Also, the decades-long loophole in the Mauritius tax treaty was ended through successful re-negotiation – this will prevent 'round-tripping' & treaty abuse. All transactions above Rs.2 lakh require PAN. A new Income Disclosure Scheme has been formulated for domestic black money. Enhanced enforcement measures resulted in unearthing tax evasion of approximately Rs. 50,000 Crore of indirect taxes and undisclosed income of Rs 21,000 Crore. The value of goods seized on account of smuggling activities has increased to Rs 3,963 Crore in the last two years.

The Prime Minister has introduced various citizen friendly schemes and opened up many communication channels with the citizens. Now, people can write to him online (or offline) and participate in discussion groups of the dedicated citizen engagement platform portal [www.mygov.in](http://www.mygov.in) or anyone can share his/her suggestions with him via Mann Ki Baat.

As can be seen, in many differing ways, this indeed is a government of firsts - resolving long pending issues, initiating first of its kind measures and already achieving some long cherished goals. But this was in 2015. What will 2016 have in store? More of the same or something even more transformative? Guess we will have to wait and see...



## Prosperous Farmers for a Prosperous India

Jun 07, 2016

**“The hard working Farmer is our Anna Data. Our schemes and initiatives are aimed towards bringing a qualitative change in the life of the farmer, one that will play a key role in Transforming India”**  
– Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

Agriculture, with its allied various sectors, is undeniably the largest livelihood provider in India. It also contributes significantly to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The government has taken many initiatives to support the farmers and modernize the sector, which has led to a renewed revitalization of the Indian agriculture scenario.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recently acknowledged the fervor of our farmers by stating, “even the drought has not dampened the spirits of our farmers. Our total food grain output in 2015-16 estimated at 252. 23 MT, which shows we had a fruitful harvest.”

“Food grain production has remained much higher, and wholesale price based food grain inflation much lower, than in the last comparable drought year, which was 2009-10,” he added.

In the Union Budget 2016-17, many provisions have been made for reforming agriculture. These revolve around investments, incentives and institutions. The allocation for agriculture and farmers’ welfare this year

is Rs.35,984 crore, the highest ever.

The government has placed emphasis on agriculture and farmers’ welfare, rural and social sectors. Several attempts have been made to generate more employment and revive the rural demand, which will spur farmers’ welfare. The Ministry of Agriculture was renamed as Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare, which symbolizes this renewed focus.

One major cause of concern has been deteriorating soil health, which has led to sub optimal utilization of farming resources. To overcome such issues, the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme was launched. The scheme aims at promoting soil test based and balanced use of fertilizers to enable farmers to realize higher yields at lower cost. The government has so far distributed 1.84 crore soil health cards to farmers and is expected to cover all 14 crore farm holdings by March, 2017.

To increase farm productivity, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has asked agricultural scientists to disseminate technologies to farmers in simple and easy manner and make “per drop, more crop” a mantra to promote farming through optimum utilization of water. The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is to be implemented in mission mode & 28.5 lakh hectares will be brought under irrigation. Implementation of 89 languishing irrigation projects under AIBP will be fast tracked. A dedicated Long Term Irrigation Fund will be created in NABARD with an initial corpus of about

20,000 crore.

It is a national mission to improve farm productivity and ensure better utilization of the resources in the country. Now, 100% Neem coated urea is available in India. This will improve fertilizer use efficiency by 10 to 15 percent and thereby reduce the consumption of urea fertilizer.

While launching 'One Nation, One Market' Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said, "This is a turning point for the agriculture world... This initiative will usher in transparency which will greatly benefit farmers."

Under e-NAM, farmers will initially be able to sell their produce through 'mandis' within the state. It will then be extended as a pan-India operation by 2017, allowing farmers to sell their produce to any wholesale market across the country. The facility will eventually link as many as 585 mandis in India by March 2018 - making it possible to reach the goal of 'one nation, one market' for agriculture all across India.

To protect the farmers from adverse consequences of nature, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was launched. The best part of it is farmers will pay a only a nominal insurance premium and get the highest-ever compensation in the event of any loss suffered. One crop – One rate (Kharif : 2 %, Rabi : 1.5 %, Horticulture Crops: 5 %). Since independence, only around 20% farmers have been covered under crop insurance schemes, but the PMFBY targets covering 50% farmers in the next 3 years.

Also, an upsurge in farm income is envisaged with increased support to several allied activities like fisheries, animal husbandry and dairy products. India recorded its highest ever milk production of 146.31

million tons. Rs 850 crore was allocated to four dairying projects - 'Pashudhan Sanjivani', 'Nakul Swasthya Patra', 'E-Pashudhan Haat' and National Genomic Centre for indigenous breeds. Fish production has increased from 95.72 lakh tonnes during 2013-14 to 101.64 lakh tonnes during 2014-15, and is expected to rise further to 107.9 lakh tonnes in 2015-16.

There is also a significant increase in relief provided by the government. For the years 2010-2015, a provision of Rs. 33,580.93 crore was made for State Disaster Response Fund. This has been increased to Rs. 61,220 crore for the period 2015-2020. A relief of only Rs. 12,516.20 crore was approved between 2010-14 crore to States affected by drought and hailstorms. But in 2014-15 alone, the government in approved an amount of Rs. 9,017.998 crore as relief to the States affected by drought and hailstorm. During the year 2015-16, Rs. 13,496.57 crore has already been approved.

In this rapidly evolving digital world, the Government of India has launched several initiatives such as the Kisan Suidha application, the electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), PUSA Krishi App, Agri Market App, Crop Insurance App (PMFBY- data will start flowing to this app after June 2016) and Farmers' Portal- www. farmer.gov.in - a one-stop shop for all info needs. This shows a dedicated push to the adoption of technology in the agricultural sector.

The renaming of the ministry as Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare is not merely semantic. With sustained focus on Progressive Farming, and integration of modern technology, the Agriculture sector is set of a transformative change. The aim of

doubling farmers' income in the next five years looks imminently doable.

मेरा देश बदल रहा है  
आगे बढ़ रहा है

PROSPEROUS FARMERS  
FOR A PROSPEROUS INDIA



Transforming  
**India**  
#TransformingIndia



THEN

UNCERTAIN CROP YIELD





NOW

OPTIMUM CROP YIELD BY USING  
SOIL HEALTH CARD



# Building Infrastructure for a Modern & Futuristic India

June 07, 2016

**“Quality infrastructure propels growth. It connects people, brightens their lives and brings India closer to the world.”**

**- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**

Building Infrastructure that befits the aspirations of a modern India is perhaps the most important task in front of any government. However, unlike many other countries that climbed the ladder of growth, India presents a rather unique challenge. On the one hand it has still to solve legacy infrastructure issues of twentieth century and on the other it also aspires to match, or in some cases indeed exceed, the infrastructure capabilities of the most developed nations in the twenty first century. So while there were still more than 18,000 villages that were unelectrified since Independence, India was also simultaneously successfully erecting the world's largest Direct Benefit Transfer regime. How has the government fared on these two, sometimes complimentary, sometimes competing, priorities? Consider the following.

On April 1, 2015, India has set forth on an ambitious journey, a mission to provide electricity to 18,452 un-electrified villages in a mere 1,000 days. It became the solemn promise of a Prime Minister from the Red Fort, when Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took upon himself this challenge in his Independence Day Speech. Rural Electrification is happening at a rapid pace, and is being done in an unbelievably transparent manner. GARV, an online platform gives real time updates of the electrification status. As of June 7, 2016, 8019 villages have already been electrified. The reaction of the villagers, from Assam to Uttar Pradesh to Rajasthan has been uniformly the same - one of joy at being finally connected!

## Power Generation

### Power for All

The emergent crisis resulting from the cancellation of 204

coal blocks by Supreme Court in 2014 was turned into an opportunity through e-auctions. 31 coal blocks were auctioned and 43 coal blocks were allotted through this process. Last year, 2/3 of coal based power plants (66 out of 100 coal plants tracked by Central Electricity Authority) had critical coal stocks, i.e. stocks for less than 7 days of production. Recovering from the situation, today not a single power plant in the country is faces a critical coal stock level.

The last two years have seen coal production by Coal India rise to a record 74 Million Tons. This has reduced import cost and led to savings of Rs. 28000 cr. of foreign exchange in 2015-16.

## Power Transmission

### Illuminating the length & breadth of India

The power grid saw an annual growth of 39% in 2015-16 due to commissioning of transmission projects worth Rs. 30,300 Crore. The highest ever increase in transmission lines was witnessed by 50,215 ckm (circuit kilometers) in 2014-16 which was around 1.5 times higher than 33,855 ckm in 2012-14.

Substantial budget outlay has been provided for sub-transmission and distribution infrastructure improvement in urban and rural areas through Integrated Power Development Scheme and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana respectively.

## The LED Revolution

Adopting the motto “India LED the World” the government paved way for the LED Revolution. The world's largest LED distribution programme was taken up with over 10 crore LED lights being distributed, which was 150% increase from 2013-14. Transparent procurement led to reduction in price by 82%. Energy efficient LED fans and agricultural

pumps were launched.

Increased wattage from 7W to 9W at reduced price

## UDAY

In order to fix the weakest link in the power value chain, UDAY (Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana) was rolled out to solve the present and potential future problems of the sector. UDAY is the most comprehensive power sector reform ever. It works as a permanent solution to DISCOM issues with focus on increased operational and financial efficiency.

## New & Renewable Energy

Through the largest ever wind power capacity addition of 3,300 MW in 2015-16, India exceeded the target by 38% and became the world's clean energy capital. Similarly, the biggest ever solar power capacity addition of 3,018.80 MW exceeded the target by a stupendous 116%. Solar projects of 20,904 MW capacity were tendered in 2015-16, out of which 11,209 MW are already awarded and 9,695 MW are in process. Because of these impressive achievements, the International Solar Alliance of 121 tropical countries to develop and promote solar energy will now be headquartered in India. In addition, 32 Solar Parks of 19,400 MW capacity were sanctioned in 20 states to harness solar energy uniformly across the nation. In 2015-16, the number of solar pumps installed was 31,472, higher than total number of pumps installed during last 24 years.

## High Speed Railways

In order to pick up speed, Indian Railways, with cooperation from Japan, will soon be getting its own Bullet Train. The National High Speed Corporation has commenced action for high-speed railway construction between Mumbai and Ahmedabad. At present, India's fastest train is 'GATIMAN' Express, which reaches speeds of 160 Km/h. 'Talgo' trains capable of running at 200 Km/h on existing infrastructure will arrive soon for trials.

## Passenger Amenities

Considering consumer comfort, the government focused on significantly improving coach designs and catering. Better food was served, with more choices on the menu. Social media, like Facebook and Twitter were used to give voice to the customer, so that they can share their suggestions and concerns in real time.

## Swachh Rail, Swachh Bharat

An offshoot of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the Swachh Rail Swachh Bharat has focused on maintaining cleanliness on railway tracks, in trains and on railway stations. The objective was to assure zero discharge on the tracks and cleanliness on stations and trains.

## Infrastructure and Safety

Keeping in mind the importance of Rail network across the country, a record capital investment of Rs.500,000 Crore has been committed for Railway Infrastructure. The

plan includes connecting all north eastern capital cities by broad gauge by 2020 and zero unmanned level crossings on broad gauge in next 3 years. A Special Railway Safety Fund of Rs.100,000 Crores has been set up.

## Highways

To realize the grand vision of a connected India, record construction of 6029 Kms of highways was carried out in 2015-16. As per the plan, 65,000 eligible habitations are to be connected by constructing 2.23 lakh Km of roads by 2019. 72,835 Kms of rural roads were constructed in 2014-16. There are 3 Major Highway Programmes currently underway – National Highways Development Programme – 55,229 Kms, Special programme for Eastern Region – 10,141 Kms and Left Wing Extremism affected areas – 5477 Kms.

## Global Partnerships

BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement – India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh (BBIN) signed a landmark Motor Vehicles Agreement for the Regulation of Passenger, Personnel and Cargo Vehicular Traffic.

Passenger bus service between India and Bangladesh – Bus services on the Guwahati-Shillong- Dhaka route and Kolkata- Agartala via Dhaka route were flagged off by Prime Ministers of both countries at Dhaka on 6th June 2015.

India, Myanmar and Thailand (IMT) Motor Vehicle Agreement under negotiation. The IMT trial run was held from 9th to 14th December 2015 from Imphal in India to Mandalay in Myanmar.

## Port-Led Development

A few new port projects are in the pipeline – Sagar port, Dugarajapatnam port, Enayam Port (Colachel), Vadhavan Port (Dahanu). Also, in order to promote port-led development in the country, the Sagarmala Program was conceptualized, with an estimated infrastructure investment of Rs. 4 lakh Crore for over 150 identified projects.

## National Waterways

106 newly declared National Waterways will be developed in the years to come. The Jal Marg Vikas Project between Allahabad and Haldia will enable commercial navigation of at least 1,500 ton vessels, and will cover a distance of 1620 Kms.

## Bridging the digital divide

### Bharat Net

Considering the importance of rural internet connectivity, the government has planned to connect all 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats (over 600 million rural citizens) in the country with 100 mbps broadband.

In many ways this is just the beginning. However, the ultimate goal of developing and transforming India is well and truly on its way.

# World's Space Agencies Unite To Face The Climate Challenge

June 03, 2016

For the first time, under the impetus of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the French Space Agency (CNES), space agencies of more than 60 countries agreed to engage their satellites, to coordinate their methods and their data to monitor human-induced greenhouse gas emissions.

The COP21 climate conference held in Paris last December acted as a wake-up call in this context. Without satellites, the reality of global warming would not have been recognised and the subsequent historic agreement at the United Nations headquarters in New York on April 22, 2016 would not have been signed. Out of the 50 essential climate variables being monitored, 26 - including rising sea level, sea ice extent and greenhouse gas concentrations in all layers of the atmosphere - can be measured only from space.

The key to effectively implementing the Paris Agreement lies in the ability to verify that nations are fulfilling their commitments to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Only satellites can do that. Invited to New Delhi by ISRO and CNES on April 3, 2016, the world's space agencies decided to establish "an independent, international system" to centralise data from their Earth-observing satellites through the 'New Delhi Declaration' that officially came into effect on May 16, 2016.

The goal now will be to inter calibrate these satellite



data so that they can be combined and compared over time. In other words, it is to make the transition to closely coordinated and easily accessible 'big space data'.

"It is overwhelming to see the unilateral support of all space agencies to use space inputs for monitoring climate change" said ISRO Chairman A.S. Kiran Kumar. "Earth observation satellites provide a vital means of obtaining measurements of the climate system from a global perspective. ISRO is committed for the continuity of earth observation data, through the thematic series of satellites, with improvements en-route, to meet contemporary as well as future needs. ISRO is also engaging with CNES, JAXA and NASA for realising joint missions for global climate observation with advanced instruments."

"This is a historic event that reaches far beyond the space sector and is a perfect example of the kind of success that can only be achieved through international cooperation" said CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall. "With this consensus among space agencies from more than 60 nations, including the world's leading space powers, the international space community and scientists now have the tools they need to put their talent, intelligence and optimism to work for the good of humankind and our planet."

## Evolution of the Space Agency Response to Climate Monitoring



# India's Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstrator (RLV-TD), Successfully Flight Tested

May 23, 2016



Mission parameters	Targeted	Achieved
Peak altitude (km)	65 + 6	64.8
Peak Mach No.	4.8 + 0.6	4.78
Re-entry Mach No.	3.95 + 0.8	3.9
Splash down point (km)	425 + 100	412

On May 23, 2016 ISRO successfully flight tested India's first winged body aerospace vehicle operating in hypersonic flight regime.

In this experimental mission, the HS9 solid rocket booster carrying RLV-TD lifted off from the First Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota at 07:00hr IST. After a successful flight of 91.1second, HS9 burn out occurred, following which both HS9 and RLV-TD mounted on its top coasted to a height of about 56 km. At that height, RLV-TD separated from HS9 booster and further ascended to a height of about 65km.

From that peak altitude of 65 km, RLV-TD began its descent followed by atmospheric re-entry at around Mach 5 (five times the speed of sound). The vehicle's Navigation, Guidance and Control system accurately

steered the vehicle during this phase for safe descent. After successfully surviving a high temperatures of re-entry with the help of its Thermal Protection System (TPS), RLV-TD successfully glided down to the defined landing spot over Bay of Bengal, at a distance of about 450km from Sriharikota, thereby fulfilling its mission objectives. The vehicle was successfully tracked during its flight from ground stations at Sriharikota and a shipborne terminal. Total flight duration from launch to landing of this mission of the delta winged RLV-TD, lasted for about 770seconds.

In this flight, critical technologies such as autonomous navigation, guidance & control, reusable thermal protection system and re-entry mission management have been successfully validated.

ISRO acknowledge the support of Indian coast guard and National Institute of Ocean technology (NIOT) for the mid sea wind measurement and shipborne telemetry respectively in this mission.

## RLV-TD

Reusable Launch Vehicle – Technology Demonstrator (RLV-TD) is one of the most technologically challenging endeavors of ISRO towards developing essential

technologies for a fully reusable launch vehicle to enable low cost access to space. The configuration of RLV-TD is similar to that of an aircraft and combines the complexity of both launch vehicles and aircraft. The winged RLV-TD has been configured to act as a flying test bed to evaluate various technologies, namely, hypersonic flight, autonomous landing and powered cruise flight. In future, this vehicle will be scaled up to become the first stage of India's reusable two stage orbital launch vehicle.

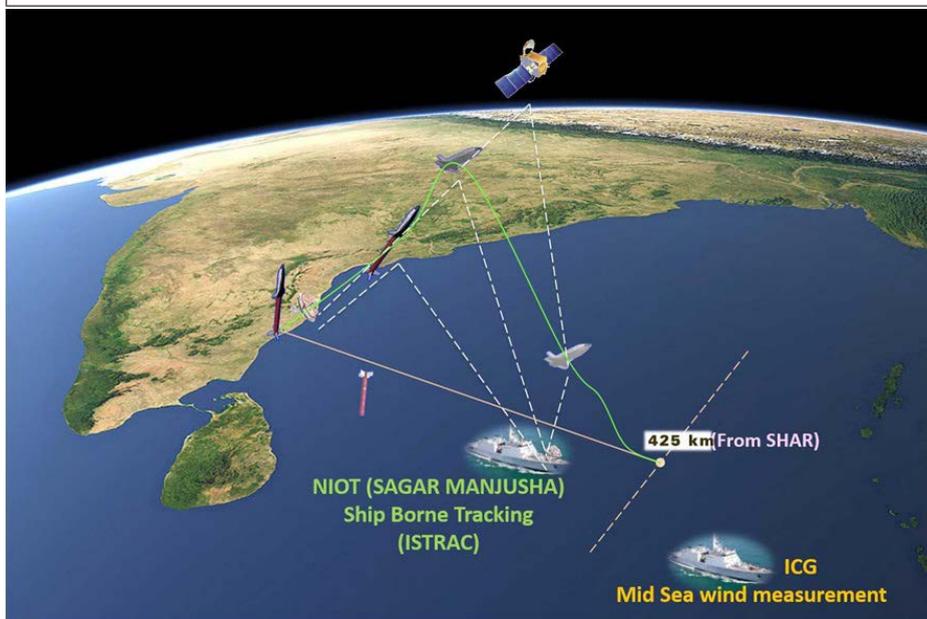
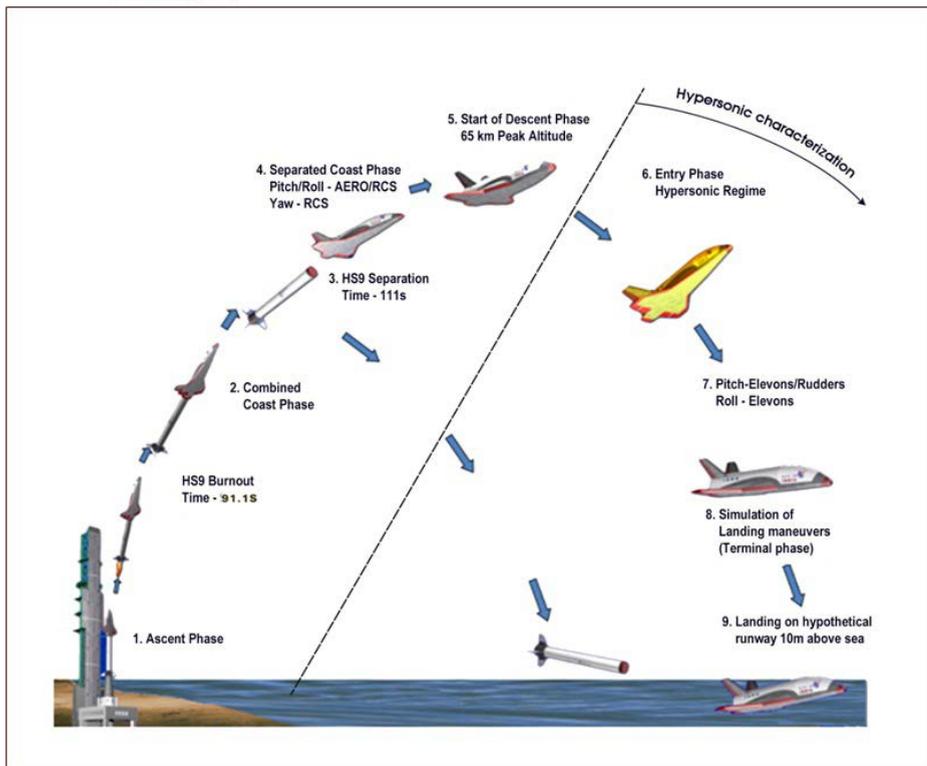
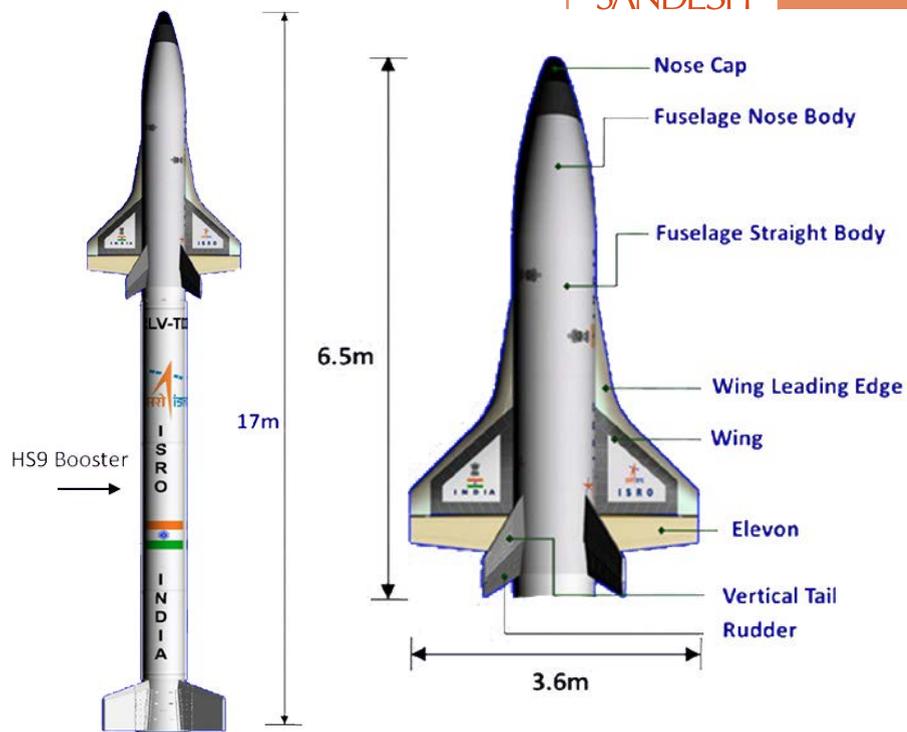
RLV-TD consists of a fuselage (body), a nose cap, double delta wings and twin vertical tails. It also features symmetrically placed active control surfaces called Elevons and Rudder. This technology demonstrator was boosted to Mach no: 5 by a conventional solid booster (HS9) designed for low burn rate. The selection of materials like special alloys, composites and insulation materials for developing an RLV-TD and the crafting of its parts is very complex and demands highly skilled manpower. Many high technology machinery and test equipment were utilised for building this vehicle.

**Objectives of RLV-TD:**

- Hypersonic aero thermodynamic characterisation of wing body
- Evaluation of autonomous Navigation, Guidance and Control (NGC) schemes
- Integrated flight management
- Thermal Protection System Evaluation

**Achievements:**

RLV-TD was successfully flight tested on May 23, 2016 from SDSC SHAR Sriharikota validating the critical technologies such as autonomous navigation, guidance & control, reusable thermal protection system and re-entry mission management.





# E-commerce to reach \$60-bn GMV by 2020

June 07, 2016

New Delhi: With a strong consumer base of around 175 million, Indian e-commerce could reach \$60 billion in gross merchandise value (GMV) by 2020, Google and AT Kearney said in a report titled Digital Retail 2020. The estimates are less than that projected by US investment bank Goldman Sachs last October, which pegged the e-tail segment to be valued at \$69 billion.

According to the report, e-tailing will become a substantial channel for the Indian organised retail sector, contributing as much as 25% of the total organised retail sales by 2020. Value-added service will be a key differentiator and 90% of the online buyers will be willing to pay for premium value-added services.

“Forty-six percent of online buyers said they would be willing to pay extra charges for faster delivery; 37% for hassle-free return and 35% were willing to pay more for extended warranty,” the report stated.

“E-tailing in India is at an inflection point and will touch 175 million online buyers by 2020. The next three to four years would be critical for the sector to get on the path of sustained profitability. Innovative delivery models and creating omni-channel presence will help bring on board new online shoppers and help grow the overall share of e-tailing from the organised retail industry in India,” said Rajan Anandan, vice-president and managing director, Google SEA & India.

Among the other findings of the report is a five-fold growth in the number of women shoppers by 2020. “They are likely to spend more on lifestyle categories, namely apparel and accessories, and are looking for the latest trends and brands online. Women respondents also said they would increase online shopping if they can get more options for flexible delivery time, and more pick-up locations so that they don’t have to divulge too many personal details,” it said.

Google said the report was compiled by combining

primary research of 3,000 consumers, qualitative interactions of 60-plus consumers and A T Kearney’s proprietary model predicting e-commerce spend across categories, income segments, and geographies in 2020.

It further said lifestyle, which includes apparels and accessories, will overtake consumer electronics to become the largest online category by 2020 at 35% of the total online spends. Consumer electronics will be at 20% by 2020.

According to the report, 55% of online volumes will be driven by cashless transactions by 2020, as opposed to 40% at present. Mobile wallet share will double to reach 15% from the current eight per cent.

A report by Goldman Sachs last year had suggested that India’s overall e-commerce market was expected to breach the \$100-billion mark by 2020. It had said the overall online market in the country including travel, payments and retail could reach \$103 billion, of which the e-tail segment would be valued at \$69 billion.



## India's growth to rise to 8 percent in FY2019: Fitch

May 27, 2016

Mumbai: India's economic growth rate will slowly accelerate to 8% by fiscal year ending March 2019, driven by the gradual implementation of structural reforms, higher disposable income and improvement in economic activity, global rating agency Fitch said in a report released on May 26, 2016.

Fitch expects India's GDP to grow 7.5% in fiscal year ending March 2016 and improve to 7.7% in the current fiscal year and further to 7.9% in the fiscal year ending March 2018.

The global agency said that the passage of the Bankruptcy Code earlier this month showed that implementation of big ticket reforms is possible in India, even though reforms related to land acquisition and a Goods and Services Tax have not passed thus far.

It also expects higher disposable income to contribute to faster GDP growth. "In rural areas, purchasing power will be supported by above-average rainfall from the monsoon, as expected by the India Meteorological Department, after two years of below-average rainfall," Fitch said.

India remains the fastest growing country across the world with GDP in 2016 estimated to grow at 7.55% year on year compared to global GDP which is likely to grow at 2.5% according to Fitch estimates.

The agency sharply cut its forecast for US private investment growth and forecasted that the US economy will grow at 1.8% in 2016, the first sub-2% growth since 2013.

However, growth expectations for China have been revised up to 6.3% in 2016 and 2017, from 6.2% and 6% previously, as earlier policy stimulus gains traction and the authorities' commitment to stabilising near-term growth has strengthened.

"The near-term threat to emerging market growth has eased, due to a more assertive stimulus policy in China and the stabilisation of commodity prices," said Brian Coulton, chief economist at Fitch was quoted as saying the report.





# Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo EVENTS & PROGRAMMES

## Workshops conducted by Colombo International Theatre Festival

April 6, 2016



Workshops conducted by Colombo International Theatre Festival held at Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo from March 1-6, 2016. Experts from India, Georgia, Italy and Germany conducted the workshops.

## Guru Upahara

April 8, 2016



Guru Upahara - Vocal Recital dedicated to Sangeet Visharadh Sunil Shantha by his Senior Pupil Visharadh Mahinda Tennekoon held at Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo

## 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

April 12, 2016



To commemorate 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Indian Cultural Centre (High Commission of

India, Colombo), screened a documentary on Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar - a film by Jabbar Patel on April 12, 2016 at Indian Cultural Centre Auditorium.

## A lecture titled "Ambedkar's Legacy: Critique of Religion, Quest for Social Justice and the Paradox of Constitutionalism".

April 22, 2016 •



125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar: Dr. Jayadeva Uyangoda, Senior Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science and Public Policy, University of Colombo delivered a lecture titled "Ambedkar's Legacy: Critique of Religion, Quest for Social Justice and the Paradox of Constitutionalism".

## Sinhala & Tamil New Year Celebrations at Indian Cultural Centre – with Prathivea Puvanandiran

April 28, 2016



The Indian Cultural Centre Colombo celebrated Sinhala

Tamil New Year on April 28, 2016 .

## International Dance Day Celebrations – at Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo

April 29, 2016



The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo celebrated International Dance Day on April 29, with a colourful Folk and Bharatha Natyam performances presented by the students of Natya Kala Mandhir under the guidance of Guru Kalasuri Vasugy Jegatheeswaran.

## Garlanding of Tagore Bust at the University of Colombo – at University of Colombo

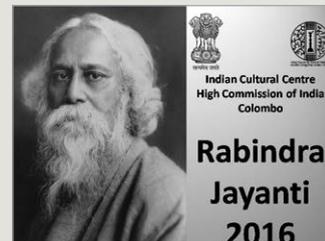
May 6, 2016



Garlanding the Bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore by His Excellency Shri Y.K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India, held at the Main Library of University of Colombo. The event was organized by the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies, University of Colombo and the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo on May 6, 2016.

## Rabindra Jayanti 2016

May 6, 2016



The Indian Cultural Centre Colombo celebrated Rabindra Jayanti 2016 on May 6, at its auditorium. The programme included documentary film screening "The story of Gitanjali" followed by rendition of Rabindra Sangeet by Shasthrapathi Charith Perera, Shasthrapathi Madhuranga Samarasinghe and Shasthrapathi Palinda Udawela Arachchi. The Deputy High Commissioner of India Shri Arindam Bagchi graced the occasion.

## Lecture - Healing Aspects of Homeopathy

May 14, 2016



Lecture - Healing aspects of Homeopathy by Ms. Shobana Cooke organized in association with A.A.Y.U.S.H. held on May 14, 2016 at the Indian Cultural Centre

# Celebration of International Day of Yoga 2016



# International Day of Yoga - 2016

## Common Yoga Protocol



### Common Yoga Protocol

Published on the International Day of Yoga - 2016, by Government of India Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH), 'Common Yoga Protocol' intends to give a brief overview about Yoga and Yogic practices to orient one towards comprehensive health for an individual and the community. Yoga is essentially a spiritual discipline based on an extremely subtle science which focuses on bringing harmony between mind and body.

**Download this free e-book from**

 <http://www.mea.gov.in/images/pdf/common-yoga-protocol.pdf>